

The American Stamp Mercury

VOL. I.

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No. IV.

The American Stamp Mercury.

Published on the 25th of every month by F. TRIFET.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, 50 CENTS PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES 5 CENTS.

TO GETTERS UP OF CLUBS. To any person sending us three subscribers, Packet No. 34 of our list will be given; five subscribers, No. 21; ten subscribers, No. 28, or single stamps to amount.

The postage (12 cents a year) must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

10 cents per line for one insertion, or 50 cents for six months; in advance.

All letters respecting the paper should be addressed to F. TRIFET, Publisher of Stamp Mercury, Box 444, Boston, Mass.

APOLOGY.

An apology is due our subscribers for the delay in issuing this number, but they can be assured that all future numbers will be issued punctually. Also, we would say that next month we will begin a list giving the description of some five hundred forgeries in our possession; this alone will be worth the price of the year's subscription, as any collector reading it can know if he has any counterfeit stamps in his collection.

NEWLY-ISSUED STAMPS.



ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—We show an engraving of the new 10 centavosta stamp of this country. This is one of the cuts which were not ready for our last number.

UNITED STATES.—The three cent stamp noticed in the November number, has been withdrawn from service, it not answering the purpose for which it was made.

NEW SOUTH WALES.—This country issued a stamp of a new value. The execution is very poor. It is printed lilac, upon white paper perforated, and watermarked with the figure 10 in italics.

GUATEMALA.—We have received from Paris, some "Essays," said to be the *genuine* ones for this country; as we are not certain of it we will await further developments.

NORTH GERMANY.—We here give an engraving of the type adopted for the confederation. The colors are not yet known. The values are as follows: Silber Groschen, 1-4, 1-3, 1-2, 1 (rose) 2, 5, krenzer, 1, 2, 3, 7, 18.

Only one envelope is to be issued which will be of the value of 1s. gr.

Since writing the above we have seen the 1-3 s. g. green, 1-2 s. g. orange, 2 s. g. blue.

FRANCE.—A new stamp similar to the last two issued, but of the value or 10 centimes, has been put in circulation. The five franc stamp is to appear early in the present year.

NORWAY.—The 8 sk. stamp, with value repeated, has appeared, color deep pink.

PORTUGAL.—The 5, 10 and 120 reis of the current type, are now perforated.



SPAIN.—We here give also the cut, of the 5 mil. of Spain, which was to go in the columns of our last.

NOW GRENADA.—We translate the following from *Le Timbrophile*. Collectors have complained and with cause (as far as collecting them is concerned) of the high value of the stamps of 5 shillings of Mauritius, New South Wales and Queensland and of those of 25 piastres of Turkey. To day, as in the fable, instead of a frog, a stork comes, and it is not now of 5 shillings, or 6p. 25c. (equal to \$1 20 gold.—Ed.) that it is question, but of 5 and 10 pesos, that is to say 26 p. 25c. and 52 p. and 50c., (equal to \$5.00 and \$10.—Ed.) without counting the cost of exchange, postage, commission, etc., to which we are put to in procuring these stamps, which costs amount sometimes as much as 30, 40, percent. and more.

We ask to what use is reserved this series that is we are told, to be completed by a 20 pesos!

They are both printed in black on colored glazed paper; 5 pesos green,—10 pesos vermillion.—This is not all. The want being felt of a new emission of *cubiertas*, or vignettes serving to seal registered letters, in the manner of sealing wax, this new type has not been made. It is printed in black on white. The flag colored as of yore, in yellow, blue and red, now floats to the left. The inscriptions are differently disposed and the characters changed. The ornaments below are replaced by streamers in various directions. On the right angle the word *Remite*, has been added.

50 centavos white.

HOLLAND.—The 5 cent of the new issue, blue on white, is out.

PHILATELIC REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1867.

The year 1867 has not been dull in increasing Philately in America, as well as elsewhere; and this country may now boast of quite as many devoted collectors of "little bits of colored paper," (as the croakers call our favorites,) as of coins. We have received during the year and registered the names, letters from 1300 collectors in the United States. When we say that this is not in our estimation, one tenth of them, our readers will not think that the "science" of stamp collecting is on the decline, at least in this country.

During the year a few publications have seen the light; of these Mason's *Coin and Stamp* (?) Magazine, the *Stamp Collectors Journal*, and the *Mercury*, are the principal in the line of journals. The first named is in a flourishing condition, if we

may judge from its editorials. The second, Alas! after a short existence of three months died. In justice to its publisher, let us say that it was a free publication. The last named we are happy to say is better than ever, and we hope that it will for many a month greet the eyes of its numerous readers.

The Collector's Guide, *Postman's knock*, *Gazette &c.* are also, we are sorry to say, among the things that were. The *Record* is still alive and trudging slowly on its fourth year.

The Stamp Collector's Hand Book, by C. M. SELTZ, appeared in August, and its author little thought when he published it that he would not live to see and enjoy the success of his work.

This year has also been noted by the publication of the first, and only one yet, COMPLETE price catalogue on this continent. It is issued by our publisher, who expects to have one, greatly enlarged and corrected, by the middle of April.

Among newly issued stamps, we have to notice some two hundred varieties, among whole sets for Austria, Prussia, Holland, Virgin and Turks Islands, Heligoland, Egypt &c., and stamps for nearly every country of the earth.

The year has also seen the springing up of many dealers and companies (!) of these we would advise our readers to take care of, unless it be a few who are reliable persons to deal with.

We think that we have given above an account of all the important events, in Philately, that has taken place during the last twelve months, therefore, all we have to do is bid our readers an affectionate FAREWELL, until we greet them again under the above heading.

Received since our Last.

LE TIMBROPHILE; Nos. 37 and 38. Paris, France; Pierre Mahé.

THE COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE. No. 10. Philadelphia, E. Mason, Jr. & Co.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS' RECORD. No. 33. Boston, Mass. S. Allan Taylor.

GUIDE MANUEL. 4th. Edition. Paris, France. Pierre Mahé.

THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL. No. 1. Meriden, Conn. National Stamp Company.

CORRESPONDENTS.—We would be obliged if you would direct all letters to us to our Post Office box (444) as we get them sooner than by carrier.

Answers to Correspondents.

P. M. Paris France.—We can only prepay two cents on stamps to France.

F. A. D. Montrose Pa.—Your two stamps like the Danish but with 3 CENTS instead of 4 s., are Danish West Indies stamps.

J. W. R. Troy, N. Y.—Sent books per Adam's Express.

W. H. Philadelphia, Pa.—In answer to your question we would say that in future we will deal in coins as well as stamps.

BEGINNER.—1. There is but one Sierra Leone stamp. 2. You had better get all the common ones first.

W. H. R.—writes all the way from Indianapolis to give the following startling piece of news.

MR. TR FET

SIR;

I sent to you last week for paket 4 containing 25 fac simile confederate stamps and when they got here they was all conterfits. Mr. Triffet you say that all your stamps are genuine now woy did you send thes to me. if you dont exchange them you shall have a pese of my mind

Yours

W. H. R.—

Now, our dear LITTLE, for you must be small judging from the above spelling, we would advise you to look in your WEBSTER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL DICTIONARY, if you have one, and on page 96 you will find,

Fac-sim'i-le, n. exact likeness.

after which give us that "pese of mind" and well-come.

POSTAL ITEMS.

LETTER ADDRESSES.

Bostmaster, plesse to sent him strait.

Ben syl-vany is der staight:

Olt Venango, dat's der gounty,

Vere oil bours out mit Hefen's pounty.

Franklin, she's der gounty seat.

Der Bost Offise on Liberty shstreet;

Sharley Taylor, he's dér man;

Send dis yust so quick you can.

"Go, little missive, in pursuit
Of Samuel Haynes, the sweet 'galoot,'"

In Franklin City, Keystone State,
He does reside, or did of late,
And if, by chance, he does neglect you,
Come back to me, and I'll protect you.

to Mr john wallene, hickory Rige po. he works in Timber hancock city, at tioga on jon, godens plase Brother to Jakee Allene and to James Allene and brotherlaw to geo willson on the lina rode. let it go to him to day.

UPWARDS of forty-one thousand letters were recently sent to Germany from the New York Post Office in a single week. The number sent to Great Britain during the same time was less than forty thousand.

ORGANIZED POSTAL ROBBERY.—Public attention in Russia has been occupied by the trial of upwards of fifty post office officials for stealing money from letters. It appears that a complete organization existed for this purpose in the department, and that it has been carrying on its operations since 1862. An elaborate code of regulations, by which this society was bound, has been discovered in which the capital of the society, the mode of division of the profits, and the sums to be given as rewards to those of the members who were most skilful in their thefts, are minutely described.

PUZZLES, &c.

ANSWERS.

3—Because it is red, (read).

4—Because he blackens the face of Washington.

CONUNDRUM.

5—Why is your nose like a common French or English Stamp.

We would like good contributions to this column such as conundrums, enigmas, &c., all relating to stamps.

SUBSCRIBERS.—As a further inducement to subscribers to get up clubs, we will give 20 per cent commission, BESIDES the prize packet, to any person sending a club of three or more.

VERY RARE STAMPS.

THE SYDNEY STAMPS.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY.

In most catalogues the Sydney stamps are regarded as one type, offering three different values of different colours. If they are carefully examined, it will be found that each value present a very different type, each having variations, according to the different issues.

These stamps are peculiar. It is a view of the sea coast, with a church in the distance, and a group of figures in the foreground, in a circle surrounded by a band inscribed, *Sig. Nov. Camb. Aust.*; and on the lower part of the circular disc, under the view, is a motto. This motto has been a difficulty, —as it is rarely to be seen distinctly on the stamps as they appear in our collections. Lacroix, in his catalogue, gives it as, *Sic fortis curia crevit*, which it certainly is not. In my catalogue, I read it, *Sic fortis et rudis crevit*, which is also incorrect. I believe it is a line of a Latin poet "*Sic fortis etruria crevit*."

1. In the red one penny stamps the frames on the sides are double, the letters are white, and the motto is in two lines, and the spandrils, or angle between the circle and the oblong frame, are granulated. Of this I have seen three variations.

1. Has the inner frame with large pale reticulations, and the outer frame is formed of narrow red and oblique bars.

2. The inner frame of smaller reticulations, and the red bars of the outer frame are nearly horizontal and wider. *Camb.* in the inscription begins at the right hand angle of the left lower spandril.

3. Like 2, but *Camb.* in the inscription begins rather above the middle of the left lower spandril.

I have been informed there is a stamp of this type with horizontal lines in the spandril, and should like to see one, if it occurs in the collection of any reader. It shall be faithfully returned if desired.

II. The blue twopenny stamps. The frame on the side is single and formed of oblique engine-turned spiral lines. The motto is in three lines, the letters are white. Of this type I have seen four varieties,

1. The stamp very badly executed; the spandrils white.

2. Like No. 1, but the spandrils with distant irregular perpendicular lines.

3. The stamp much better executed; spandrils with close perpendicular lines.

4. The stamp like No. 3, equally well executed, but the spandrils are shaded with close straight and waved horizontal lines.

III. The olive-green threepenny stamps are like the blue twopenny ones in many respects. The frame is single and the motto in three lines, but the letters are dark on a pale ground, and the side frames are formed of engine-turned transverse oblong lines.

I have only seen one kind of this stamp, which has the spandril shaded with close rather waved horizontal lines, but I have reason to believe there are others, and shall be glad to receive any that may occur to any collector of the stamps, to be examined.

P. S.—In a note from Major Christie, the post-master at Sydney, he says the *picture stamp* is the first stamp that was used in the colony. It was an imitation of the great seal of the colony, with its motto, *Sic fortis etruria crevit*. They are no longer used.—*Stamp Collector's Magazine*.

The American Stamp Mercury. Boston, Mass.: F. Trifet.

The second number of this periodical is before us, and bears evidence of carefulness it its "get up." It contains eight pages, of which six are occupied with readable matter including (in the copy from which we write) an editorial article entitled "Thanks;" a paper on "Newly-Issued Stamps," in which we observe our description of the Argentine series has the honour to be quoted at length; answers to correspondents; a long narrative entitled "Winter Mail Service across the Straits of Northumberland, from Prince Edward Island to the main land of New Brunswick," which we may be able to transfer to our columns on a future occasion, and a page of miscellaneous items. We find we have further to add a list of United States revenue stamps on the seventh page.

We wish our contemporary every success; and as he states that he has "come to the conclusion to make it the stamp paper of America, or perish in the attempt," we do not doubt but that, with such a resolution, he will obtain all the prosperity he could wish. The American stamp public must surely be able to support two magazines so cheaply priced as this and the *Stamp Collector's Record*. We should like to see in both a better class of writing than has hitherto characterized the American periodicals, and believe that with our friends in the States to *Study* their stamps, they would soon find sufficient matter for interesting original articles.—*The Stamp Collectors Magazine*.

We have nothing to add to the above, except it be to advise our readers to follow the Directions at the end of it, and to aid us all they can in "making up" our columns every month with interesting articles.

NOTICE.

Having had lately several valuable letters stolen, this is to give notice that I will not be responsible for money sent me unless by Post Office Money Order or in registered letters, the cost of which may be deducted from the amount sent if over two dollars.

F. TRIFET.

Boston, February 1st, 1868.

LIST OF UNITED STATES REVENUE STAMPS,

FOR SALE BY F. TRIFET.

Device.	Facial Value.	Selling Price.
		\$
Bank Check,	2 cents, blue and orange.	.01
Bill of Lading,	10 cents.	.01
Bond,	25 cents.	.04
	2 cents, blue and orange.	.02
Certificate,	5 "	.01
	10 "	.01
	25 "	.02
Charter Party,	3 "	.08
	5 "	.06
	10 "	.25
Contract,	10 cents.	.01
Conveyance,	50 cents.	.02
	1 cent.	.01
Express,	2 " blue and orange.	.03
	5 "	.02
Foreign Exchange,	3 cents.	.01
	70 "	.03
	4 "	.01
	5 "	.01
	10 "	.01
	15 "	.02
	20 "	.01
Inland Exchange,	30 "	.02
	40 "	.02
	60 "	.03
	1 dollar,	.03
	1 " 50 cents.	.05
	2 " 50 "	.05
Insurance,	10 cents	
	25 "	.02
Lease,	50 cents,	
	1 dollar.	
	5 cents,	.05
	50 "	.05
Life Insurance,	50 cents.	
Lottery Ticket,	3 dollar.	.10
Manifest,	50 cents.	.02
	2 dollars.	.05
Mortgage,	10 "	.25
	25 "	1.00
Original Process,	50 cents.	.02
Playing Cards,	1 cent.	.03
	2 " blue	.03
	10 cents.	.02
Power of Attor'y,	25 "	.02
	1 dollar.	.03
	1 dollar.	
Probate of Will,	2 "	.05
	5 "	.06
	10 "	.25
	1 cent.	.01
	2 " blue and orange.	.02
Proprietary,	3 "	.01
	4 "	.02

Surety Bond,	50 cents.	.02
Telegraph,	1 cent.	.03
	3 "	.02
U. S. Int. Rev.,	2 cents.	.01
Warehouse Rec't,	2 5 cents.	.04

WANTED.—All kinds of Revenues not PRICES in this list.

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U. S. CENTS.

DATE.	UNC.	GOOD.	POOR.
1793.			
1794.			
1795.			
1796.			.10
1797.			
1798.			.10
1799.		\$5.00	\$3.50
1800.			.25
1801.			.20
1802.		.25	
1803.		.25	
1804.			
1805.			
1806.			
1807.			
1808.			
1809.			
1810.			
1811.			
1812.			.12
1813.			
1814.			
1816.		.15	
1817.		.10	
1818.			.10
1819.			
1820.			.5
1821.			
1822.		.15	
1823.			
1824.		.10	
1825.		.10	
1826.		.10	
1827.			.5
1828.			.5
1829.			
1830.			
1831.			.5
1832.			
1833.			.5
1834.			.5
1835.			.5
1836.			.5
1837.		.15	
1839.	.50	.10	
1839.			.5
1840.			.10
1841.		.15	
1842.			.10
1843.		.15	
1844.		.10	
1845.		.10	
1846.		.10	

DATE.	UNC.	GOOD.	POOR.
1847.		.10	
1848.		.5	
1849.		.5	
1850.		.5	
1851.		.5	
1852.		.5	
1853.	10	.5	
1854.		.5	
1855.		.5	
1856.		.5	
1857.	50	.25	

WANTED! to buy all kinds of Coins.

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THE

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20 State St., Boston, Mass

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

Antigua	2	Varieties	\$0.14
Austria	18	"	.60
Baden	8	"	.25
Bavaria	10	"	.25
Belgium	6	"	.18
Brazil	4	"	.25
*Cape of Good Hope	4	" square	1.25
*Confederate States	4	"	.20
Denmark	4	"	.12
*Egypt 1866			2.30
* " 1857	6	"	2.0
Germany South		"	.15
Great Britain	12	"	.30
*Hamburg Boten	116	"	.75
Hong Kong	5	"	.25
India	6	"	.20
Italy	6	"	.18
*Natal	7	" embossed	8.00
"	3	"	.1
New Brunswick	5	"	.12
*New Orleans	3	"	.15
N. S. Wales	4	"	.2
New Zealand	4	"	.20
Nova Scotia	5	"	.12
Portugal	6	"	.40
Prussia	15	"	.35
Russia	4	"	.18
Saxony	10	"	.30
Spain (all issues)	10	"	.50
States of the Church	4	"	.20
Sweden	6	"	.20
Switzerland	12	"	.35
" Envelopes	2	"	.18
*United States 1851	8	"	1.50
* " N. Y. P. O.	5	"	2.00
Victoria	6	"	.30
*Wells, Fargo & Co. 11		"	2.00
Western Australia	4	"	.25
Wurtemberg	8	"	.25

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 9.

Boston, Mass.

TIME POSTAL LABEL.

This is a new, original, and very useful little Stamp just now becoming popular, and having a large sale. A specimen is here given.

Its object is to show the recipient of a letter just the hour and day the letter was mailed, that in case of its non-receipt at the proper time, the blame

can be placed on the party. It very frequently becomes not only an object of great interest but of importance to know just when a letter was mailed. It serves as a monitor to the Postman, to the Post Office Clerk, and to the recipient. The party sending a letter marks a pointer at the hour it leaves his hands, and also fills out the blank below with the month and day. It is for sale at 20 cents per hundred at

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Send for list of packets; I would particularly
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For list of sets see page 27. Only a few of the
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The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MARCH 2, 1868.

No. V.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

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F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

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NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

We commence our list this month with a stamp for a new country. We are obliged to a reader for showing it to us. It is for

PARAGUAY.—At last this country has a stamp, a bona fide(?) one. It is as follows: REPUBLICA at top; DEL PARAGUAY at bottom; in the centre a steamship to right; CINCO on the left, and CENTS on the right, with the figure 5 in shields at the four corners. Color redish-rose, on very thin paper unwatermarked. The specimen we saw was postmarked "Assumption," Jan. 3, 1868. It was no doubt issued January 1. The engraving is very fine though not coming up to the Bank Note Co's. work. We

do not know whether there are any other values or not.

FRANCE.—The 80 centimes of the laureated-head type is out. The series now consists of
10 centimes, brown; 30 centimes, brown;
20 " blue; 80 " rose;
besides the 2 maroon and 4 grey.



NEW SOUTH WALES.—We append an illustration of the new stamp, described in our last, for this country. The engraver has done honor to it, as it is better than the original.

ST. HELENA.—It is believed that this colony is going to have an addition to their stamps in the following new values.

Twopence, yellow,
Threepence, purple,
Five shillings, orange,

The design is the same as the others, the plate of the sixpence being used for all and the value altered in black ink.

MEXICO.—The provisional series has been augmented by the addition of a 1-2 real green and 1 real blue, both on blue paper.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The Tenpenny stamp is now printed in yellow instead of orange-red as formerly.



NEW GRANADA.—Annexed is the engraving of the 10 pesos (!) stamp, described in No. 4.

Our printer among other mistakes, made us say last month in speaking of the new *cubiertas*. The want being felt of a new emission of *cubiertas*, or vignettes serving to seal registered letters in the manner of sealing wax, this new type has not been made, instead of now been made.

CHILI.—The 10 and 20 centavos stamp of the new issue have also been sent us. We suppose the 5 was issued at the same time.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—The permanent series for this colony has made its appearance. The design, or rather designs, for there are two, are as follows: Diademed head of Queen Victoria to left, inside of an oval band, inscribed STRAITS SETTLEMENT POSTAGE; the value below. The stamps are rectangular:

Eight cents, orange.

Twelve cents, blue.

Twenty-four cents, green.

The other design has the same head enclosed in a rectangular disk, with STRAITS SETTLEMENT at sides. POSTAGE above, and 32 cents below.

32 cents, vermilion.

PRUSSIA.—The 6 pf. envelope same as the 3 pf. has been issued; color, orange.

NORTH GERMANY.—Below is a list of all the series noticed in our last.

- 1-4 groschen, mauve.
- 1-3 " green.
- 1-2 " orange.
- 1 " rose.
- 2 " blue.
- 5 " bistre.
- 1 " env. rose.
- 1 kreuzer, green.
- 2 " orange.
- 3 " rose.
- 7 " blue.
- 18 " bistre.

A stamp has also been issued for the use of the city of Hamburg. It is printed in mauve on white, inscribed NORDDEUTSCHER POSTBEZIRK STADTPOST-BRIEF HAMBURG and perforated.

CUBA.—We are in possession of a New Stamp issued for this Colony. It is rectangular, ULTRAMAR above, Queen's head to left in centre, 10 CENT, 1868 below. Color blue, perforated, no watermark. We are unaware of the existence of any other denomination, but suppose there must be as in all past issues.

HOLLAND.—The ten cents of the new set is out.

TASMANIA.—The sixpence is now printed in mauve instead of purple.

PUBLISHERS receiving a copy of this number, with this marked, will please send us their publication, which will be noticed in "Received Since Our Last."

Current Stamp Forgeries.

For the last eight months we have laid aside one of each variety of forged stamps that we came across, and now having some five hundred specimens, we propose to describe them for the benefit of our readers.

We are indebted to a friend, for letting us compare some of the specimens with the genuine ones in his very complete collection, and would most warmly thank him for this and other favors shown us.

Persons having *known* counterfeits in their possession, not described in this list, would oblige us by sending them on for inspection, and they will be returned, if desired.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION

1858, SMALL FIGURES, 5 AND 15 CENTAVOS.

5 centavos *genuine*.—the liberty cap in the centre is very faint; there seems to be *one* line under on in CONFED.

Forged.—The cap is dark and smudgy; two lines can be seen under on.

15 centavo *genuine*.—The upper left hand dot comes *above* a white line; there are 15 lines across the centre of the stamp.

Forged.—The line comes *against* the dot; there are 14 lines.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

1862. ARMS BETWEEN TWO BRANCHES. 5, 10, 15, CENTAVOS.

5 cents *genuine*.—The sun has 32 rays; there are 74 dots in the circle around it.

Forged.—The sun has but 29 rays and there are 76 dots around it.

10 c. *genuine*.—The letters in *Republica Argentina* are very plain and even.

Forged.—The letters are not plain and very uneven.

15 c. *genuine*.—The sun has 44 rays.

Forged.—The sun has but 30 rays.

AUSTRIA.

NEWSPAPER STAMPS, RED MERCURY.

Genuine.—The P in *Post* has a *waived* line in front; the Z, in *Zeitung* is wide.

Forged.—The P in *Post*, has a *straight* line before it; the Z is narrow.

BADEN.

1850. FIGURE IN THE CENTRE. 1 KREUZER WHITE.

Genuine.—The upper stroke in the 1, is slightly curved; the letters in *Baden* at top are thick; the dot after the 1 is far from it.

Forged.—The upper stroke in the 1 is straight; the letters at top are very dim; the dot almost touches the 1.

1862. ARMS ON WHITE GROUND.

18 Kreuzer, *Genuine.*—The ornaments in the corners, are square shaped; there are 18 lines in the diagonal band on shield.

Forged.—The ornaments are cross-shaped; there are but 14 lines on the band.

BARBADOES.

VALUE NOT INDICATED. GREEN AND RED ON BLUE.

Green, *Genuine.*—On the bale, at the left, there are 8 lines; there is also one line down the centre of the lance-pole.

Forged.—The lines are so smudged that they cannot be counted, and there is none at all on the lance-pole.

Red, *Genuine.*—The bale on the left has 8 lines on it; the shield 15.

Forged.—The bale has but 6, and the shield 12 lines.

BAVARIA.

UNPAID LETTER STAMP.

Genuine.—The B, in BAYER is not open in front; the P, in POSTAGE has a stroke before it; the 3 in centre has a dot right before the centre.

Forged.—The B, is opened, the P has no stroke before it, and the 3 has no dot.

BERGEDORF.

1-2 BLUE, 1 1-2, 3 BLUE ON ROSE, 4 SCHILLING, 1-2 sch. *genuine.* The shield on the eagles breast has lines on it.

Forged.—There are but 3 lines.

1 1-2 sch. *genuine.* This denomination has five lines.

Forged.—Has but 3.

3 sch. *genuine.* The lower left hand 3 does not touch the frame; the circle around the arms is made with smaller circles.

Forged.—The 3 touches the top and bottom of the frame; the circle is made with a chain.

4 sch. *genuine.* In the centre there are 37 lines.

Forged.—There are but 35 lines.

BRAZIL.

ITALIC FIGURES.

30 reis, *genuine.* In the centre there is an oblong oval line; the top of the 3 in 30 is just inside of this line.

Forged.—The top of the 3 is entirely over the line.

BREMEN.

3, 5, and 7, 10 grotes, 5 s. gr.

3 grotes, *genuine.* The lines on the shield run outside of it; the small ornaments in the corner are shaded with oblique lines.

Forged.—The lines do not go outside of the shield; the ornaments are shaded with perpendicular lines.

10 grotes, *genuine.* The key nearly touches the top of the oval; the printing is very clean.

Forged.—The key is far from touching and the printing is very poor.

7 grotes, *genuine.* The right hand upper stroke of the K in MARKE is crossed.

Forged.—The K is not crossed but only half so.
[TO BE CONTINUED.]

DEAD-LETTER OFFICE.

Out of 462,273,719 letters which annually pass through the United States mails, 4,306,508 are misdirected or unpaid and go to the Dead-Letter Office at Washington. Our own correspondence—by no means light, since we have had very frequently to open over a thousand letters a day—has taught us that there are a great many careless people who consign not only their effusions but their money to the mails with the most reckless negligence; what must be then the experience of the venerable clerks of the Dead-Letter Office who examine the misdirected ones of a daily correspondence of over one million letters? It is hardly credible that frequently letters reach the Department at Washington which have the name of the town as well as that of the State omitted from the direction; or that often there is no other address than that of the town and State, the name of the person being omitted as totally unimportant.—And occasionally letters thus carelessly directed contain money or other valuables.

But if the misdirections of the dead-letter offices are curious often their contents are far more singular. A great many persons have a singular idea of the nature of mailable matter; and in the Museum of the department at Washington may be found articles of every character resurrected from the dead-letters. While our artist was making the sketch on this page a worn-out gaiter boot, size 24, was disembowled from a defunct package and consigned to the waste bundle. Hoop-skirts, night-gowns, embroidered slippers, as well as lace collars and such light wearing apparel, are supposed by some deluded females to be mailable matter; while oil-paintings, jewelry, and sometimes even glass ware pass by Uncle Sam's express rather than those of Adams's.

Our sketch of this interesting bureau of the Postal Department at Washington illustrates the process of disposing of the dead-letters. The work of opening the letters and arranging them in bundles is done by male clerks, some of whom have been for many years engaged in the Department. One of the old gentlemen shown in the sketch is a brother of a former Postmaster-General. When the letters have been opened, they are tied up in bundles and passed to female clerks, who occupy a balcony which extends around the apartment. Those let-

ters which contain money or valuables are passed directly to the chief clerks or "heads of divisions," and by them registered and carefully noted and examined. It is the duty of the female clerks to investigate the bundles of opened letters and discover all information that may be contained which will facilitate the return of the dead-letter to the sender.

The latest statistics of the Dead-letter Office show that of the 4,306,508 letters consigned thereto during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1867, 3,619,062 were domestic, and 179,466 foreign. Nearly half a million were held for non-payment of postage.—These statistics show that the number of dead-letters diminished nearly one million during the last year, and this gratifying result is attributed to the use of envelopes with a request for the return to the writers of unclaimed letters directly from the post-office addressed. It is estimated that fully fifty millions of these envelopes were used during that year, the Department supplying about one-third of the number.

There is very little of this great amount of paper wasted. Such letters as can not be returned to their owners are sold by contract, and, by a patented process, reduced to a pulp in the presence of a post-office official; from this the ink is extracted, and the pulp worked into paper.

So profitable has this proved that the other departments at Washington are saving their waste paper, and the Treasury Department has lately made a proposal to supply the Postal Department with envelopes made from defaced fractional currency.—[Harper's Weekly.

Take Notice.

For the benefit of our readers, as well as ourselves and printer, the MERCURY will hereafter be issued on the 1st of every month, instead of the 25th.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

LETTER ADDRESSES.

Mr. Thomas Cleary Schenectady please send this letter to the Widow meacon the woman you bought the pairs of last year your friend truley Mr. Thomas O'Connor of Albany N. Y. it will be doing me a favor if you do.

Here's three cents, Uncle Sam, as that is the charge,

As you see this letter is not very large.

At Little Rock, Ark., I wish you to leave it,

Flora May Wilkins will be there to receive it.

Altho' to you this may seem very flat,

She'll be tickled to get it, I'll pledge you my hat.

PUZZLES, &c.

ENIGMAS.

6

I am composed of 61 letters.

My 19, 33, 20, 8, 4, 22 is a province of Europe that uses stamps.

" 20, 31, 5, 29 is an American country that uses stamps.

" 12, 21, 53, 30, 15, 2, 11 is a country that has but ten stamps.

" 11, 21, 7, 5, 26, 13, 30, 54, 57 is the value on a stamp.

" 58, 61, 45, 49, 38 is found on every stamp.

" 48, 5, 1, 41, 54, 46, 6, 50, 23, 57 is what many dealers have.

" 37, 16, 37, 55, 54, 4, 60, 58, 26, 40, 3, 50 is a value on a United States stamp.

" 41, 44, 27, 10, 51, 31, 5, 37, 54, 17, 32, 57, 32, 18, m, 48, 22 is what every dealer says he has not got.

" 40, 56, 35, 48, 9, 38, 54, 17, 45 is the name of a stamp album.

" 60, 16, 41, 52, 38, 34, 25, 29, 59, 48, 42, 5, 55, 4 is an inscription on a stamp.

" 17, 47, 19, 16, 28, 42, 35, 28, 48, 39, 3, 56, 31 is an inscription on a stamp.

" 43, 38, 27, 35, 57, 14, 1, 41, 28 issued stamps in 1852.

" 41, 24, 60, 39, 36, 52 is a country of North America issuing stamps.

My whole is the inscriptions on two postage stamps. J. B. C.

CONUNDRUMS.

7—When is a stamp like iron?

F. T.

ANSWERS.

5—Because it is a secenter(cent-er)

Answers to Correspondents.

P. M. Paris, France.—Yours of Jan. 30th. answered Feby. 28th.

A. S. Bath, England.—Parcel received Feby. 18th.

J. W. Albany, N. Y.—See first page for advertising rates.

J. B. New York.—We are obliged for Chilian stamps, we describe them in this number.

X. Y. Z.—We do not advise you to put counterfeit temporarily in your album. The only fit place for them is the fire-place.

Received Since Our Last-

LE TIMBROPHILE; No. 39. Paris, France; Pierre Mahé.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S MAGAZINE; No. 61 Bath, England; Alfred Smith & Co.

JUST RECEIVED.

The largest and best variety of Stamps ever imported in the United States.

Thanking my numerous customers and friends for the liberal support they have given me during the past year, I have the pleasure to announce to them that I have received by the last mails the *largest* and *best* stock of stamps ever imported in America. I now have on hand 47,000 stamps, worth about \$1500. which I will dispose of at the cheapest rate possible. In future I will endeavor always to keep as large a supply on hand, and would respectfully invite all my correspondents to give me a call, when in town, and I will feel the greatest pleasure in showing them that *all* I advertise is true. My motto is "Quick sales and small profits," and I have no hesitation in saying that I am the cheapest dealer in America, as any person may judge for himself, by comparing my prices, as per my *new* list, with *any* other dealers warranting their stamps.

Calling your attention to my advertisements in other parts of the MERCURY,

I remain, very respectfully,

F. TRIFET.

Boston, March 2nd, 1868.

UNITED STATES.

The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851, unused, \$1.10;
Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, 2.00;
N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

5-2t

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FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS,
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Forty varieties, 25 cents.
Twenty British Colonial Stamps. 25 cents.
Send two stamps for Price List.

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5-1t.

WILBUR & STANDISH.
dealers in FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS. P. O. Box 1348, Chicago, Ills. Send stamp for Price List. 5-2t.

To be issued March 25th

A New and Illustrated

DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST

AND

CATALOGUE

OF

American and Foreign
Postage Stamps,

For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps.

All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT. Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 18 cents, or 6 three cent stamps. Address,

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Boston, Mass.

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COINS

FOR SALE BY

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20 State Street, Boston.

U. S. CENTS.

DATE.	UNC.	GOOD.	POOR.
1793.			
1794.			
1795.			
1796.			
1797.			
1798.			
1799.		\$5.00	\$3.50
1800.			.20
1801.			.20
1802.		.20	
1803.		.25	
1804.			
1805.			
1806.			
1807.			
1808.			
1809.			
1810.			
1811.			
1812.			.12
1813.			
1814.			
1816.		.10	
1817.		.10	.5
1818.		.15	.10
1819.			.5
1820.			.5
1821.			
1822.		.15	
1823.			
1824.		.10	.5
1825.		.10	.5
1826.		.10	
1827.			.5
1828.			.5
1829.			
1830.			
1831.		.10	.5
1832.			
1833.			.5
1834.			.5
1835.			.5
1836.			.5
1837.		.15	
1839.	.40	.10	
1839.			.5
1840.			.10
1841.		.15	.10
1842.			.10
1843.		.15	.10
1844.		.10	
1845.		.10	.5
1846.		.10	.5

DATE.	UNC.	GOOD.	POOR.
1847.		.10	\$
1848.		.5	
1849.		.5	
1850.		.5	
1851.		.5	
1852.		.5	
1853.	10		
1854.		.5	
1855.		.5	
1856.		.5	
1857.	50	.25	

WANTED! to buy all kinds of rare Coins.

WANTED all kinds of Stamps, especially the old issues of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, &c. Also, South American Stamps, for which the best price, either in cash or stamps will be given.

F. TRIFET,
20 State Street, Room 9.

WANTED—The following stamps in any quantity for which the highest price, either in cash or stamps, will be given.
CANADA; $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. sterling, 10d., 12d. and envelopes.

NEW BRUNSWICK; 3d, 6d, 12d, 2 and 17 cents.
NEWFOUNDLAND; 4d, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1s SCARLET, and 12, 13, and 24 cents.
NOVA SCOTIA. 1, 3, 6, 12 pence, and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.
Also all SOUTH AMERICAN and COLONIAL stamps. Address F. TRIFET,

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FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS; beautifully colored; suitable for HILL'S Album, 25 cts. Arms of all Nations, 25 cents.

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He has particular facilities for purchasing Books, Pamphlets, Magazines, Stationery, Holiday Presents, &c.

Money must accompany orders, which will be filled and sent by the cheapest and safest means.

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THE

STAMP COLLECTORS'

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THE NONPAREIL STAMP ALBUM, ruled to contain 1100 stamps, with the description of current issues in English, French, and German. The neatest and cheapest stamp Album published.—Price, 12 mo., cloth, 75 cents, by mail, 85 cents.

LALLIER'S ALBUM, the French, seventh edition, containing a full description of all American and Foreign Stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. This is the most complete Album published. Imperial oblong, 8vo., cloth, clasp, \$6.00, post free, \$6.50.

HILL'S BOSTON ALBUM, contains places for three thousand Stamps, including U. S. Revenues; is divided into countries, each country having sufficient squares for all past, present, and future issues with places for the coat of arms and flags of each, country.

It is printed in Carmine ink, on extra fine paper, and is the best album published in America, 4to, cloth, gilt sides, \$3.00, post free \$3.25.

F. TRIFET,

20 State St., Boston, Mass

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

Antigua	2	Varieties	\$0.14
Austria	20	"	.60
Austrain Italy	6	"	.20
Baden	8	"	.25
Bavaria, '51—62,	8	"	.20
Bavaria, '67,	4	"	.15
Belgium	6	"	.20
Brazil	5	"	.30
Canada	5	"	.12
*Cape of Good Hope	4	"	1.25
Ceylon	4	"	.25
*Confederate States	4	"	.20
Denmark	5	"	.15
*Egypt 1866	7	"	2.30
* " 1867	6	"	2.00
*France	4	"	.12
"	10	"	.15
Germany, North	5	"	.18
* " " '68,	3	"	.25
Germany South	10	"	.30
* " " '68,	3	"	.25
Great Britain	12	"	.30
* " " Locals	7	"	.25
*Hamburg Beten	116	"	.75
Holland	6	"	.20
Hong Kong	5	"	.20
India	6	"	.25
Italy	7	"	.20
Jamaica	5	"	.30
*Luxemburg	4	"	.15
Natal	3	"	.15
* " embossed,	7	"	8.00
New Brunswick	5	"	.12
New South Wales	4	"	.20
New Zealand	4	"	.20
Norway	4	"	.20
Nova Scotia	5	"	.12
Portugal	5	"	.30
Prussia	20	"	.55
* " "	5	"	.25
Queensand	3	"	.15
*Romagna	9	"	1.75
Russia	4	"	.20
Saxony	12	"	.40
*Sicily	7	"	2.75
*Servia	4	"	.30
Spain (all issues)	10	"	.50
* " " " "	6	"	.35
* " July '67,	4	"	.50
* " Official, '55,	4	"	.30
Sweeden	5	"	.15
Switzerland	12	"	.35
* " envelopes	2	"	.16
Tasmania	4	"	.20
*United States 1851	3	"	1.10
*N. Y. P. O.	5	"	2.50
*Wells, Fargo & Co.	11	"	2.00
Victoria	6	"	.25
Western Australia	4	"	.25
Wurtemberg	8	"	.25

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ONE TRIAL IS SOLICITED.

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NO. 20 STATE STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

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POSTAGE, REVENUE,
LOCAL, TRIAL,
PROOF, &c., &c.
STAMPS.**

USED AND UNUSED, PRESENT AND OBSOLETE.

I defy comparison with any Dealers' prices, Warranting their Stamps,
20 page Catalogue forwarded on receipt of 10 cents. All Stamps **WARRANTED
GENUINE.**

All letters to contain stamp for reply, and addressed

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F. TRIFET'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

ALBUMS.

For a list of all the best Albums see page 35.

ARMS OF ALL NATIONS.

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CONFEDERATE FAC SIMILES.

About forty well executed *fac similes* of the stamps of the Southern Confederacy, one cent each, or the set Post-paid, 35 cents.

CONTINENTALS.

Well mixed European stamps at 30, 40, 50, and 60 cents per hundred or \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50, and \$5.00 per thousand.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS.

Companion sheet to the arms of all nations.—
Post-paid, 25 cents.

HAMBURG LOCALS.

The set of 116 all different. 75 cents

PACKETS.

Send for list of packets; I would particularly recommend packets No. 3, 7, 13, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 38, and 43. My list of packet is not equaled by any dealer on this continent.

SETS.

For list of sets see page 35. Only a few of the Natsals, embossed issue, at \$8.00 per set of seven.

UNITED STATES LOCALS.

20 varieties, 25 cents; 30 varieties, 50 cents; 50 varieties, \$1.00; 75 varieties, \$2.00.—**WARRANTED
GENUINE.**

Address,

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20 State St., Boston, Mass.

The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, APRIL, 1868.

No. VI.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

TERMS:

One Copy to One Address, One year,	\$.50
Three Copies, " " " "	1.25
Five " " " " " "	2.00
Eight " " " " " "	3.00

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

The postage, 12 cents a year, must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

No Advertisements received after this number.

Address all communications as follows:

AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

Box 444, Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

PARAGUAY—We have not obtained any new information in regard to the stamp noticed in our last. The cancelling mark, which was in English, has been changed to a rising-sun arrangement, and other various matters. The supply also seems to be large. Is this another effusion from some bright gentleman's inventive mind? Maybe some of our readers may throw a light on the subject. We are waiting for "something to turn up."



CUBA.—Our first illustration this month, is of the 5 centimos stamp of Cuba, issued this year. Besides the 10 cent. noticed last month, there are three values, as follows:—

5 centimos,	lilac.
20 " "	green.
40 " "	rose.

STRAITS SETTLEMENT.—We omitted to notice in the last number, a stamp of "three half cents," of the provisional issue of this colony. It is impressed in red, on the half anna India. The permanent series now consists of



6 cents,	lilac.
8 "	orange,
12 "	blue,
18 "	lilac,
24 "	green,
32 "	vermillion,
96 "	grey green,

They are very much like the Hong Kong stamps, and will no doubt include the same values.

INDIA.—This country has turned another of its Revenue Stamps into a Postage one. It is done by impressing the words SERVICE POSTAGE, over those of RECEIPT BILL ON DRAFT; value, half anna (?)

ROUMANIA—The series not long ago issued has been changed for a new one printed on white paper unperforated, and having "banis" for denominations.

2 bani.	orange,
4 "	blue,
18 "	rose.

The design is the same as the last issue, but the borders are more elaborate, and the circle smaller.

DOMINION OF CANADA.—A Saint John N. B. paper chronicles the appearance of the 15 "nt. stamp and states that the 3 and 6 will soon make their appearance.

UNITED STATES.—The government seems to have adopted the new embossing process as the 2, 3, and 12 cent stamps are now found so ornamented. They are printed on thinner paper and stick a great deal better,

CHILI.—There is also a 1 and 5 centavos stamp in the new issue,

BOLIVIA.—The 20 centavos red, and 100 centavos blue, have been issued.

The Confederate Stamps.

Our readers will remember that in the third number of the *MERCURY* we warned them against a certain stamp purporting to be a genuine issue of the Confederate States. Since then we have received the following letter, which we copy verbatim, only leaving the dealers name out as we do not wish to make an advertisement of this,

Charlestown, S. C.,
February 28, 1868.

Mr. F. Trifet,

SIR,—A young friend of mine, a stamp collector, showed me some days since an article in your Magazine, in which you question the authenticity of the small red ten cent Confederate stamp with vignette of Gen. I. J. Jackson. As you evidently are not posted with regard to its origin I thought you might care to know something about it. In May 1861, I was in the employ of Messrs Hoyer & Ludwig, Richmond, Va., to whom the first contract for furnishing postal stamps for the Confederacy was awarded. They issued the following: ten cents, head of Jefferson, pink and blue; five cents, head of Davis, green and blue, and two cents head of Andrew Jackson, green. The lithographic stones of these were destroyed by fire in September '61, and Maj. Gorgas, then Confederate States agent in London, England obtained plates from Messrs. Th. De-La-Rue & Co. for stamps of the denomination of five and one cents. At the suggestion of Mr. Randolph, then Secretary of War, our firm, thought Mr. Carroll, our designer furnished the little ten cent stamp, to which you allude. It was of De-La Rue's design, but differs from their stamps in being engraved on stone and not on steel. You speak of their great number. The entire number printed was but 300 from the stone, and 25 (the dark impressions) from a separate die stone. The only way in which they reached dealers was as follows; Mr. David Randolph, formerly post-master at Cheraw near here took a sheet of 100 stamps to Charleston, where they remained until 3 month ago, when a New York gentleman seeing them bought them from Mr. Randolph and sold them to Mr. — a dealer in New York city. The 25 dark impressions were bought by the same party and sold to the same dealer. About 150 of the stamps were used on letters from this place and I have two cancelled ones now in my possession. The remainder belong to Mr. J. D. Howard of New York city. The stamp was approved and became one of the regular issue until Messrs. Keating & Ball of Columbia in this state made a low bid and obtained a contract to supply stamps, when all those previously in use were discontinued. On applying to the following gentlemen, all of whom were connected with the Post Office department in the Confederacy, you can possibly learn anything additional you may wish to know.

Mr. D. Howard, New York City, I think at 71 Broadway. He has several of the stamps, some cancelled.

George R. Carey, 63 Wall Street, late State Treasurer at Richmond Va. He has the first proof from the die, printed black ink, and also a very fine collection of stamps of all countries.

J. D. Hollister, Philadelphia, Pa.

H. Lammot, " "

David Lammot, Raleigh, N. C.

David Randolph, Charlestown, S. C.

Yours Respectfully.

J. ALEX. H. STEVENS JR.

[Our correspondent states that the stamps left Charleston three month ago. We saw them five months before the letter was written,]

On receipt of Mr. Stevens' communication, we wrote to Mr. G. R. Carey and received the following reply,

New York, March 10 1868.

F. Trifet Esq.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 5th, March to my uncle, Mr. George R. Carey, has been handed to me by him. He says that as far as his knowledge and recollection go the letter of Mr. Stevens is correct in every particular, and as far as I remember he is right. I have a complete set of all the Confederate Government stamp ever issued, and the black proof which Mr. Stevens referred to in his letter. Mr. Howard was in my office a few days ago and corroborates Mr. Stevens' statements. I am something of a stamp collector myself, and have several times been asked my opinion as to whether the small ten (about which you write) could be considered as a genuine issue. My answer has always been that the TEN was better entitled to be considered of a genuine issue than the ONE, because the latter never reached the Confederacy except as samples, and were never used, whereas, the tens to the number of a hundred, or one sheet, were regularly passed through the Post Office at Athens Ga. Mr. Carroll of Hoyer, Ludwig & Co. designed all the first issue of Confederate stamps, I believe, and owing to his Union feelings, never made or was able to get any money for them.

When dealers have spoken to me about them I have always referred them to him, but do not know where he is at present.

I shall be happy to show you my collection whenever you are in the city, and if there is any specific information you wish with reference to the stamps, of which I am unfortunately not able to furnish you with a specimen, you can write to me.

Very Respectfully.

Your obedient servant,

GEO. H. CAREY.

After reading the above letters we must say that our opinion as given in the third number of the

MERCURY is somewhat altered, but still we will wait for further developments before accepting a stamp of which we have never heard of before and which has such a strange history. We will be happy to publish any further knowledge that our readers may have concerning the genuineness of this stamp.

CURRENT STAMP FORGERIES.

On account of the length of the article on the Confederate stamp, we are obliged to omit the above. We will renew next month our war against these impostors, and will spare nothing to make the list as complete as possible.

Since writing the first chapter last month, our collection of these beautiful birds has been doubled by the generous gift of a "victim." Several persons have asked us to commence over again the list on that account and as several mistakes crept in in the description of the Bremen stamps, we will comply with the request, and in the next number, commence with renewed energy.

THE POST OFFICE.

The Post Office and the Telegram are both of modern origin, although Cyrus, Augustus and Charlemagne established posts for the transmission of news, and Montezuma of Mexico had fast carriers for messages from the Gulf of Mexico to the capital of the Aztecs. In English history the post office makes its first appearance under the Commonwealth in the time of Cromwell, when its revenue is reported at the moderate sum of fifty thousand dollars. For a century more the roads of England were mere bridle paths or causeways, almost impassable for carriages. Canals and railways had no existence and commerce was conducted on pack horses, and by carriers whose description we find in the plays of Shakspeare a century earlier. In 1764 the revenue had gradually risen to two and one-fifth millions dollars. Improved roads and canals came in soon after our revolution, and the revenue from this point of departure gradually advanced to ten millions dollars in 1820. From 1820 to 1840 the revenue remained nearly stationary for twenty years, reaching but twelve million dollars in 1839. The rates of postage were high, averaging twelve to fourteen cents. Common carriers came in to compete at two cents per letter, and in 1839 the Government, under the pressure of competition and the advice of Sir Rowland Hill, put down the rate to a penny for a single postage.

At this period the net income of the office was six million dollars, and in the first year the letters doubled, but the net income was almost extinguished, the gross receipts for 1840 falling below six million eight hundred thousand dollars; but the revenue soon became progressive, as shown by the following table, viz:

Letters.	Receipts in round numbers.
1839..... 82,000,000	\$ 12,000,000
1840..... 168,000,000	6,750,000
1855..... 456,000,000	13,500,000
1866..... 679,000,000	20,750,000

Before the reduction and prepayment, when rates were irregular, the cost of handling letters in the British Post Office was three cents each. Under the new system it fell to seven mills per letter, and now the postal system of Great Britain yields a larger net revenue than ever before.

France followed the example of Great Britain and reduced her postage to four cents, and increased the number of letters annually posted from one hundred and fifty millions in 1858 to three hundred and eleven millions in 1866.

In the United States we have made more rapid progress than has been made in England or France. When we had emerged from our state of colonial dependence and established our Constitution we formed our postal system, in 1788-'89. The revenue from the Post Office at first was but thirty eight thousand dollars. Its advance is shown in the following table:

Receipts.	No of Letters before reduction
1810..... \$ 552,000	1856..... 120,000,000
1820..... 1,112,000	1859..... 244,000,000
1830..... 1,850,000	1867..... 462,000,000
1840..... 4,550,000	
1854..... 6,700,000	
1858..... 7,500,000	
1865..... 14,500,000	
1867..... 16,137,000	

While Great Britain is doubling her postal receipts and letters once in fifteen years and France once in eight years, immediately after her reduction, we are doubling in seven and a half years, and as our rate is three cents per letter, while that of Great Britain, for an area less than one twentieth of that of the United States, is two cents, our receipts from letters will soon be as large as hers, although our revenue from the Post Office in 1855 was but half that of Great Britain.

While Great Britain diminished her revenue one-half by lowering her rates, we went through the transition state from high to low prices without loss, and now advance in our receipts with accelerated speed.

From 1790 to the date of our reduction in 1856 our Post Office was nearly self-sustaining, the receipts having been ninety nine per cent, upon the expenditure, the balance having been covered by the free carriage of public documents and letters. During the last year of the war the Post Office gave a considerable net revenue, and now it is largely increasing its facilities, revenue and efficiency.

Our foreign letters have not quite kept pace with the increase of our home correspondence. The emigration from Europe has been large and our trade progressive, but the latter has not kept

pace with our inland commerce or with the diffusion of our people over this great continent by railways and steamers.

In 1855 the postage of our foreign letters was one million five hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars. In 1867 the postage on ten million two hundred and ninety-eight thousand foreign letters was two million four hundred and forty-one thousand two hundred and forty-two dollars. During 1867 the gain has been more than seven per cent., and under the twelve cent postage, recently adopted between England and this country, bids fair to be progressive. The newspapers now transmitted across the ocean are: From foreign countries, one million eight hundred and seventy-two thousand; to foreign countries, two million nine hundred and fifty-seven thousand. We send them nearly two newspapers for one. At the present time the great nations of the world rank as follows in the scale of letters circulated yearly, viz: Great Britain six hundred and seventy-nine millions. United States four hundred and sixty-two millions, France three hundred and eleven millions, Prussia one hundred and ninety millions, Austria one hundred and nineteen millions, Italy sixty-seven millions, Spain fifty-nine millions.

We have pursued a judicious course in adopting our recent postal treaty with Great Britain. The rate has come down to twelve cents, and to fifteen cents to most European countries. We trust the day will soon come when our postages to all parts of Europe will be reduced to ten cents per single letter. This would give us three cents for inland, five cents for ocean, and two cents for European postage, and five cents is quite ample to cover the transmission across the ocean. It is the policy of modern nations to give subsidies to mail steamers in order to provide a police for the sea and build up a maritime power. They can consequently carry letters for less than full rates. As 70,000 half-ounce letters form a ton, and as single letters average little more than one-third of an ounce, it takes nearly 100,000 letters to constitute a ton, and these, at five cents, yield five thousand dollars. When postages were higher, the Collins line, for two years, returned in postages an average of nineteen thousand dollars per trip, and now, with low rates, it would not be surprising if our foreign letters should soon rise to 20,000,000 per annum.

At the present moment our Government contracts for the transmission by the pound, and realizes a profit on the postage. Its policy should be to provide American steamships in place of foreign, and add to the receipts from postage a liberal subsidy, copying in this the example of Great Britain, who grants annually five million dollars on subsidies to her mail steamers, and thus keeps equipped, manned and ready for use, a navy of two hundred thousand tons of superior steamships, costing her, after she deducts her profits by postages, less than three million dollars per annum.

As respects our inland letters, we shall at our present rate of gain in six or eight years overtake Great Britain and carry our annual circulation of letters above one thousand millions.

General Burt, our excellent Postmaster, is quite mercurial in his movements. He is in fact the

Mercury of our Post Office. Not content with securing a site for a suitable office and taking the initiatory measures for its construction, he has harmonized the differences between the department and the railroads of New England, and done much to speed and facilitate the delivery of letters.

The delivery of letters by carriers in our great cities is a favorite idea of the department and the plan is to have six to ten such deliveries daily. The boxes on the chief routes are to be opened hourly and those on the side routes once in two hours, and letters thus obtained are speedily distributed by carriers.

The Boston Post Office is to employ one hundred and fifty carriers or post men, each of whom can deliver daily from five to eight hundred letters. Their duties will be greatly facilitated if our citizens will attach boxes to their doors with an aperture to receive the letters.

Few gentlemen can afford to send more than three times daily to the Post Office, but the post men will bring the letters more frequently. The Boston District should embrace South Boston, Roxbury, East Boston and Charlestown, and it is computed that parties who receive letters by the carrier will be able to interchange notes two or three times daily at the trivial cost of two cents for each transmission, and may do this without losing more than two minutes of time, as boxes will be placed within two hundred yards of each other.

Post Office boxes and calls at the post office may soon go out of fashion. In Dublin there are seven deliveries daily, and in the different districts of London from three to ten, and each inhabitant of those cities receives on the average from forty-three to forty six letters annually.


In Boston the average is larger and still progressive. The delivery by carriers is a source of profit to the nation. Postal cars are now run twice each week day in each direction between Boston and New York, and will soon run twice daily on the Shore line.

A postal car runs through to Canada daily. In these cars the letters are sorted and prepared for delivery. Seven hundred mails are made up daily at the Boston Office.

Postal orders are a great convenience to the public, and especially to the publishers of books and papers. There are now one thousand offices in which these orders may be procured. The average remittances through this channel are found to be sixteen dollars each, and for ten cents a draft on any of these offices may be bought at one of them. Remittances are thus made in varying sums to the most distant parts of the country, without risk of loss and at trivial expense. Boston is receiving in these orders several hundred thousand dollars annually.—[Boston Journal.]


☞ An insane P. M., whom "too much learning (of Latin) hath made mad," inquires whether it is not "wrong in itself" to send letters across the ocean, because the process is *malum per se* (mail 'em per sea!)

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

 **HIGHLANDERS' LETTER-POSTING.**—Queer scenes occur at the Post Office at Wick, Scotland, especially on Saturday evenings, when hundreds of letters are posted by the Hiland fishermen. When the penny postage was first established, the Postmaster had many a hard night's work among the Highlanders, who illustrated their national characteristic by endeavoring to beat down the postage to a halfpenny, alleging that the letter was a little one, and that the Highland Postmaster never charged more than a halfpenny. From the out-stations beyond the daily delivery they would come, and while one would ask if there was a letter for him, he would answer to the interrogatory as to his name, "Och! ye'll see it on the back of the letter;" and on the name being at last communicated and the information that there was no letter for him, Donald often put the poser; "Do you think she will be the morn?" Donald has learned by experience, however; but at present it generally requires four Highlanders to complete the *MODUS OPERANDI* of posting a letter. One brings it to the office wrapped up in a piece of paper, a second precedes him and buys a stamp; handling the stamp to a third, he, after various licks and manipulations, gets Her Majesty's head affixed to the letter, and the fourth, after looking into the slit with considerable suspicion, cautiously lets it drop, and the whole four finish the performance by peeping down the slit to see that all is well with their missive. This may be seen almost daily, and especially on Saturday evenings.

A HINDOO LETTER.—In external appearance and construction of appearance, a Hindoo letter is worthy of notice. It is written on a palm-leaf, with an iron stile, four to six inches long, and sharp pointed at the end. In writing, neither chair nor table is needed, the leaf being supported on the middle finger of the left hand and kept steady with the thumb and forefinger. The right hand does not, as with us, move along the surface, but after finishing a few words, the writer fixes the point of the iron in the last letter, and pushes the leaf from right to left, so that he may finish his line. This becomes so easy by long practice, that one often sees a Hindoo writing as he walks the street. As this species of penmanship is but a kind of faint engraving, the strokes of which are indis-

tinget, they make the character legible by besmearing the leaf with an ink like fluid. A letter is generally finished on a single leaf, which is then enveloped in a second, whereon is written the address. In communicating the decease of a relative, the custom is to singe the point of the leaf upon which the afflicting news is written. When a superior writes to an inferior he puts his own name before that of the person to whom he writes and the reverse when he writes to a superior.

 **HARD NAMES.**—We remember reading some time since an article in an English magazine the writer of which indulged in much merriment in regard to the odd names to be found in the list of American post offices; but we think the following samples from the British Colonial postal Directory are quite equal to anything in that line on this side of the water, especially since the abolishment of the offensive name of "Small Pox," with which a post office in Illinois was for many years afflicted:

Wahgunyah,	Humansdorp,
Onatsboorn,	Graff Reinet,
Paarl.	Yackandandah,
Stettenbosch,	Warnambool,
Vitenbage,	Swellendam.

Answers to Correspondents.

H. J. Indianapolis, Ind.—Your Sandwich Island Stamps are counterfeits.

F. A. D. Montrose, Pa.—There *is* such a person but we have very little to do with him.

M. & W. Philadelphia, Pa.—1 We are patiently awaiting an answer to our letter. 2 You will oblige by correcting two mistakes in the last number of the *Magazine*: first you say that the fourth number of the *MERCURY* was "a month" behind hand, change it to "a week." Second you state that the *MERCURY* is devoted to "Coins (?)" It does not *profess* to, therefore your interrogation point is entirely out of place.

J. P. Elizabeth, N. J.—The Canada envelopes were not made by the American Bank Note Co., but by Messrs. Nesbitt & Co., New York. They were struck only on white paper. The buff paper ones are "beats" got up to sell no doubt by that enterprising gentleman, who made the one cent U. S. 1851 issue, on buff paper, with "specimen" across, and *tried* to impose it on the collecting public as a "proof."

J. H. New Orleans, La.—There is no 240 reis Portugal, but *maybe* one will be issued soon.

J. A. H. S. Jr. Charleston, N. C.—Thanks for information in regard to the Confederate Stamp.

G. H. C. New York.—Also to you for same.—Can you tell us where you obtained the black proof, and also the cancelled specimens?

T. H. S. Sing Sing, N. Y.—The stamps you sent are counterfeits; four of them go in our collection, to be described at the proper time.

G. H. W. Orange, N. J.—The catalogue is not out yet. 2. Twelve numbers is a years subscription without regard to date.

PUZZLES, &c..

ANSWERS TO THOSE IN OUR LAST.

6—Inter. Island Hawaiian Postage Uku Leta, and Franco Bolls Postale Boscano.

7—When it is forged.

Received Since Our Last.

LE TIMBROPHILE; No. 40. Paris, France; Pierre Mahc.

THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL; No. 2. Meriden, Conn. National Stamp Co.

N. E. P. O. RECORD. Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10, Boston, Mass. Wm. M. Kendall.

THE MONTHLY MISCELLANY. Vol. III., No. 3. North Strafford, N. H.

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

Antigua	2	Varieties	\$0.14
Austria	20	"	.60
Austrain Italy	6	"	.20
Baden	10	"	.30
Barbadoes,	3	"	.15
Bavaria, '51—62,	8	"	.20
Bavaria, '67,	4	"	.15
Belgium	6	"	.20
Brazil	5	"	.30
British Guiana,	4	"	.20
Canada	5	"	.12
*Cape of Good Hope Sq.	4	"	1.25
*Confederate States	4	"	.20
Denmark	5	"	.15
*Egypt 1866	7	"	2.30
* " 1837	6	"	2.00
*France	4	"	.12
"	10	"	.18
Germany, North	5	"	.18
* " " '68,	3	"	.20
Germany South	10	"	.30
* " " '68,	3	"	.20
Great Britain	12	"	.30
" " Locals	7	"	.25

Greece	7	Varieties	.30
Grenada	2	"	.12
*Hamburg Boten	116	"	.75
Holland	6	"	.20
Hong Kong	8	"	.35
India	6	"	.25
Italy	7	"	.20
Jamaica	4	"	.25
*Luxemburg	4	"	.15
Moldo Wallachia 1868.	3	"	.80
Natal	3	"	.15
* " embossed,	7	"	8.00
New Brunswick	5	"	.12
New South Wales	4	"	.20
New Zealand	4	"	.20
Norway	4	"	.20
Nova Scotia	5	"	.12
Portugal	5	"	.30
Prussia	25	"	.75
* " "	5	"	.25
Queensland	3	"	.15
*Romagna	9	"	1.75
Roman States,	4	"	.20
Russia	4	"	.20
Saxony	12	"	.40
*Sicily	7	"	1.75
*Servia	4	"	.30
Spain (all issues)	10	"	.50
* " " "	6	"	.35
* " July' 67,	4	"	.50
* " Official, '54,	4	"	.40
* " " '55,	4	"	.30
Sweden	5	"	.15
Switzerland	12	"	.35
* " envelopes	2	"	.15
Tasmania	4	"	.20
Trinidad	3	"	.18
*United States 1851	8	"	1.10
*N. Y. P. O.	5	"	2.50
*Wells, Fargo & Co.	11	"	2.00
Victoria	6	"	.25
Western Australia	4	"	.25
Wurtemburg	8	"	.25

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 9,
Boston, M ss.

TIME POSTAL LABEL.

This is a new, original, and very usefull little Stamp just now becoming popular, and having a large sale. A specimen is here given.

Its object is to show the recipient of a letter just the hour and day the letter was mailed, that in case of its non receipt at the proper time, the blame can be placed on the right party. It very frequently, becomes not only an object of great interest but of importance to know just when a letter was mailed. It serves as a monitor to the Postman, to the Post Office Clerk, and to the recipient. The party sending a letter marks a pointer at the hour it leaves his hands, and also fills out the blank below with the month and day. It is for sale at 20 cents per hundred at

F. TRIFET'S.
20 State St., Boston, Mass.

COINS

FOR SALE BY

F. TRIFET,
20 State Street, Boston.
U. S. CENTS.

DATE.	UNCIR.	Very Good	Good.
1793.			
1794.			
1795.			
1796.			
1797.			
1798.			
1799.		\$5.00	\$3.50
1800.			
1801.			
1802.		.20	.15
1803.		.25	.20
1804.			
1805.			
1806.			.15
1807.			
1808.			
1809.			
1810.			
1811.			
1812.			.12
1813.			
1814.			
1816.		.10	
1817.			.05
1818.		.15	.10
1819.			.05
1820.			.05
1821.			
1822.		.15	.10
1823.			
1824.		.10	.05
1825.		.10	.05
1826.		.10	
1827.			.05
1828.			.05
1829.			
1830.			
1831.		.10	.05
1832.			.10
1833.		.10	.05
1834.			
1835.			.05
1836.			
1837.		.15	
1838.	.40	.10	.05
1839.			.05
1840.			.10
1841.		.15	.10
1842.		.15	.10
1843.		.15	.10
1844.		.10	.05
1845.		.10	.05
1846.		.10	.05

DATE.	UNCIR.	Very Good	Good.
1847.		.10	\$
1848.		.05	
1849.		.05	
1850.		.05	
1851.		.05	
1852.		.05	
1853.	10		
1854.		.05	
1855.		.05	
1856.		.05	
1857.		.40	.30

WANTED! to buy all kinds of rare Coins.

To be issued April 25th
A New and Illustrated
DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST
 AND
CATALOGUE
 OF

American and Foreign Postage Stamps,

For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps. All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT. Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 15 cents, or 5 three cent stamps. Address,

F. TRIFET, 20 State St.,
5-2t.
Boston, Mass.

UNITED STATES.

The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851 unused, \$1.10,
 Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, 2.00,
 N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
5-3t
Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

AUSTRIA, 2 kr. 5 cts., 3 kr. 6 cts. Newspaper stamp 5 cts; AUSTRIAN ITALY 2 sold., 5 cts.; BAVARIA, 1 kr. 3 cts; Egypt 5 pa. yellow, 5 cts. 10 pa. 8 cts.; GERMANY 1-4 s. gr. 5 cts. 1-3 s. gr. 6 cts. 1-2 s. gr. 8 cts.; HAMBURG 1-2 s. sch., 6 cts.; MOLDO WALLACHIA 2 bani, 6 cts. 4 bani 10 cts.; SPAIN 5 mill. 5 cts.; SWITZERLAND 5 cent. env. 6 cts. 10 cent. env. 8 cts.; VENEZUELA 1-2 cent-avo, 8 cts.

All the above are unused and lately issued.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street.,
6-1t.
Boston, Mass.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS; beautifully colored; suitable for HILL's Album, 25 cts. Arms of all Nations, 25 cents.

F. TRIFET,
20 State Street, Room 9.

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The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, MAY, 1868.

No. VII.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

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AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

Box 444, Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

For some time past philatelists in all parts of the world have been anxiously expecting a new set of stamps to emanate from the New Dominion of Canada. Many essays, proofs, &c., have been reported, but we flatter ourselves that the description given of one in the second number of the MERCURY is the nearest to the adopted design. We here give the description of the stamps, illustrating the $\frac{1}{2}$ cent, issued for the

DOMINION OF CANADA.—They are seven in number, as follows:—

	$\frac{1}{2}$ cent,	black,
1	"	red brown,
2	"	green,
3	"	vermilion,
6	"	brown,
12 $\frac{1}{2}$	"	blue,
15	"	lilac.

The design, head of Victoria to right, is the same in all the values, the border and framework only being different in each value; on looking at them one would be apt to judge them to be from the ateliers of the American Bank Note Co., but this is not the case, they having been engraved by the "British American Bank Note Co., Montreal and Ottawa." The $\frac{1}{2}$ cent is about one-third smaller than the other values, and like them, gummed and perforated. They went into use on April 1st, but the old stamps are still current for a time.

INDIA.—Still another bill stamp has been changed into a postage one, value two annas, violet on white.



VICTORIA.—This colony has just issued a beautifully designed stamp of the value of five shillings. Dark blue on yellow watermarked—crown under V, and is perforated.

ORANGE FREE STATE.—This free state, as the name indicates it, has just issued a set of three emblematic stamps, the design of which consists of an orange tree in full bloom, with three post-horns underneath.

The values are

Een (1) penny,	light-brown,
Zes (6) pence,	rose,
Een (1) shilling,	orange-yellow.

NEW GRANADA.—The sobre porte stamps now consist of three values, viz.: 25 and 50 centavos and 1 peso.

AZORES.—Azores has a provisional issue, consisting of the current Portuguese stamps with the word AZORES impressed across it.

UNITED STATES.—We have received no information as yet in regard to the new issue, but expect to before long, and if in time will insert it in this

number. An English contemporary notices a black three cent stamp, gummed and perforated, and states that it is probably an essay. If our worthy friend would try an experiment with a little nitric acid, &c., he might learn how "essays" are made in this country.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—A new set of stamps is being prepared for this colony.

PARAGUAY.—We would call our readers' attention to a correspondent's letter in this number, in regard to the stamp lately issued. We are happy to say, that unlike the Jackson confederate stamp, it turns out to be an undoubtedly genuine issue, the specimens our correspondent sends us being postmarked "Concepcion, En. 9, 1868," and affixed to an envelope having several other marks of postage due, day received, &c. &c. It will be seen that the stamp serves for "local letters and papers."

FRANCE.—The forty centime laureated-head series is out; color, orange-red.

STRAIT'S SETTLEMENT.—Letters lately come over bear the provisional and new stamps side by side, showing that they are still current.

Current Stamp Forgeries.

BY THE EDITOR.

As before stated, our object is not to give a description of what forgeries we have seen or heard of, but of the different specimens that we have in a collection numbering some 700 varieties.

If our readers have any suspected stamp not described, they would confer a favor by letting us see it, and we will be happy to return it if desired.

The description of the genuine stamps have been taken from undoubted genuine specimens in our own collection and some of the rare kind from those in the collection of a friend.

ARGENTINE CONFEDERATION.

1858. SMALL FIGURE.

5 and 15 centavos.

Genuine.—The frame work at the top begins at the left hand corner with a vertical line, thus |.

Forged.—It begins with a parallel one, thus —.

1862. ARMS BETWEEN BRANCHES.

5, 10 and 15 centavos.

5 c. *genuine.*—The figure 5 at bottom has the top very short; after the 5 in CENTAVOS there are about 25 lines in the ground-work.

Forged.—The top of the 5 is twice as long as in the genuine; there are only 14 lines after the 5.

10 c. *genuine.*—The arms is encircled by two rows of dots the inside ones being placed two by two.

Forged.—These dots are at equal distance from each other.

15 c. Same differences as in the ten.

AUSTRIA.

1850. MERCURY'S HEAD.

Blue, yellow, rose and red.

Blue Genuine.—The letter P in POT has a wavy line before it; on the left there are two letters, turned thus 12.

Forged.—The line is wanting before the P and the two K's are turned the other way.

Red, yellow and rose genuine.—There is no line along the nose of Mercury.

Forged.—Between the nose and ear there is a dark line,

ARMS IN SQUARE.

1 kreuzer black.

Genuine.—The 1 at bottom has an up-stroke almost as long as the down; the arms do not touch the frame.

Forged.—The up-stroke of the one is very short; the arms touch the frame.

BADEN.

1853; FIGURE IN CIRCLE.

1 kreuzer, white.

Genuine.—The groundwork, around the 1, is made of chain-work; the up-stroke of the 1 is slightly curved.

Forged.—The groundwork is merely one loop inside of another; the up-stroke is perfectly straight.

1862; ARMS ON WHITE.

18 and 30 kreuzers.

18 kr. *genuine.*—The lower part of shield is about 1-16 of an inch from the frame; the perforation is by machine.

Forged.—The shield touches the frame; roulette perforations.

30 kr. *genuine.*—The ornaments in the corners are square; there are eighteen lines in the band across the shield.

Forged.—The ornament are cross-shaped; there are fourteen lines in the band.

BARBADOES.

Blue and red on blue, and green on white.

Genuine.—There are eight white lines on the box at the side of Britannia; the stamps are well printed and the various parts of the design is plain.

Forged.—The lines cannot be counted; the stamps

are badly printed, and look smudgy and very poorly engraved.

BASLE.

2½ rappen.

The dove, in the genuine, is strongly embossed which is not the case with the forged; the 2½ Rp. at the botom is much coarser than in the genuine.

BAVARIA.

UNPAID LETTER STAMP.

Genuine.—The B in BAYER is not open in front; the 3 in the centre has a dot right in front

Forged.—The B is opened, and the 3 has no dot before it.

RETURN LETTER STAMP.

"Munchen,"

Genuine.—The crown is placed straight; the right hand lion (?) has one tail with two ends.

Forged.—The crown is laying to one side; the lion has two tails.

[To be continued.]

Puzzles for Stamp Collectors.

CONUNDRUMS.

8.—Why are purchasers of a forged Grenada penny, like the stamp they buy?

9.—Why is a letter box like a business house that trusts?


TRANSPOSITIONS.

10.—aaacceeihmmnnprrrsttuy.

11.—aceilnnnooppstt.

12.—abcedeilnnnooprssstttttuvwzz.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.


 THE LARGEST COLLECTION IN THE WORLD.—A gentleman, resident in London, the author of the papers on British Guiana, New South Wales, and Victoria, which have appeared in these pages, possesses, we have good reason to believe, the largest and finest collection of stamps in the world. It is contained in nine volumes, and comprize splendid specimens of the rarest stamps, proof impressions, and almost all known varieties. —*The S. C. Magazine.*

LETTER ADDRESSES.

Will Uncle Samuel bear in mind
That Peggy Harvey's he will find
In Northern end of Sucker State,
Sleeping early, rising late,

Making butter with great care,
Breathing damp *Chicago* air.
If recollection has not blundered,
She kicks the beam at just two hundred.
You'll know her, Uncle, in a minute,
Or else my word has no truth in it.

P. S.—*Box* (her ears) 22 (times).
—*N. Y. Mail.*

 "QUACK".—A French gentleman, engaged in the drug business in New York, had occasionally noticed the word "Quack" written in pencil on the envelopes of letters delivered to him by the carrier. Though somewhat at a loss to account for the circumstance, he paid but little heed to it untill the frequency of its occurrence satisfied him that it was the work of some enemy employed in the post office, who had adopted that singular mode of insulting him. A few weeks since the carrier called as usual, and, having delived his letters, was about taking his departure, when he was called back by the excited voice of Monsieur:

"Vait! hold on! mistair *porteur*—carrier: I would some words with you. Vat mean this *coquin*, r-r-rascal, to writte 'quack' on my letters, he? By gar, I no stand him no longer—I shall writte to the General Postnaster and demand him to *guillotine*—cut off de head of dis *vaurien*—dis blackguard—vat so insult me. Sair, I am *not* von *charlatan*—quack! I do not pretend myself to be doctor—nevair. I sell de drugs—*voila tout*—dat is all. *Eh bien*—for vat I am call quack? Is it that it is *pour s'amuser*—for fun—vat you call *choke*, he? Dam! it is no choke, sair, I tell you—here is von, two, tree letter—all vith 'quack' write on him—for von, two, tree month, the same ting. *Sacre!* if dat is von choke, it is *joue*—vat you call 'played out.'"

During this ventilation of the long-smothered wrath of this indignant dealer in drugs, the carrier had been examining the letters with a quiet smile on his face, which finally broadened into a laugh. This proceeding of course increased the anger of the insulted gentleman.

"Ah! you laugh to my nose, eh? It is then that you have yourself write de 'quack' on my letter—von leetle *choke* of yourself, he?"

The carrier hastened to assure him that he was not responsible for the offensive epithet.

"*Eh bien*—you can den tell to me vat mean dis—who make dis choke?"

"It isn't a joke, sir—it's all right."

"All right! But I tell you it is all wrong. *Je ne le vois pas*—I don't see it. *How* is it 'all right,' *sair?*"

"Why, you see," said the carrier, struggling with his disposition to laugh — "your letters, when they are sorted, sometimes get into the hands of the wrong carriers, and when that is the case, they write 'Quack' on them, so that they will be given to me to deliver."

"Ah! I see—you have been von quack doctor, then?"

"No, but my name is *Quackenbush*, and they write my name, 'Quack' for short."

"Oh! ah! *Oui oui!* I see him now! *Quack and Boosh*—yes, yes! Ha! ha! it is a name very singular. It is all right—all right, *Mistair Quack*—*Quack and Botch*. Excuse me my anger, if you please. I did tink an insult to me was intend; but it is that *you* are de quack, not me. *Bon jour*—good bye, *Mistair Quackybosh!*"

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE CONFEDERATE JACKSON STAMP.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

NEW YORK, April 14, 1868.

Dear Sir :

Your letter of the 13th inst. has been received, and I do not hesitate to pronounce the postage stamp described in your magazine, a fraud on those interested in collecting specimens.

My attention was called to the stamp in question, by the stamp dealer in this city, who purchased those mentioned in the letter of Mr. Stevens, printed by you, and he brought to me a letter from the person who claimed to have engraved the "so called" *Jackson Stamp*, giving a history of them so full of errors and misstatements that I exhibited to the dealer official documents in my possession which satisfied him that he had been duped. Mr. Randolph never had the slightest connection with the preparation of the postage stamps used in the Confederate states, or with the Post Office Department. Judge John H. Reagan, of Texas, was appointed Postmaster General, in Feb., 1861, and I was the First Assistant Postmaster General from the organization of the P. O. Department to the end thereof; and during the absence of the Postmaster General, all of the duties devolved by law, upon me, so that at no time during its existence did it become necessary for the Secretary of War (Mr. Randolph) to interfere in its management. As chief of the Contract Bureau of the P. O. Dep't it was my duty to obtain postage stamps, and I accordingly made a contract with Messrs. Hoyer & Ludwig, Lithographers in Richmond, Va., for stamps in the following order: First, of the denomination of five cents, head of Jeff. Davis; second, denomination ten cents, head of Thos. Jefferson; and third, denomination two

cents, head of Andrew Jackson. All designs were submitted to me for approval, and I have proof impressions of all designs that were ever considered by the Department. I never heard of the Stonewall Jackson Postage stamp until it was shown to me in New York last winter, and as all stamps were required to be approved by the Department at Richmond, and issued therefrom to Postmasters, it is difficult to understand how I should have remained in ignorance of its existence, as it was my sworn duty to know all about the stamps, and I believe I performed my duty in that regard at least.

I do not know anything about Mr. Carroll's "Union feeling," or why "he never made or was able to get any money for his designs." I only know that Hoyer & Ludwig were paid in full for all the stamps they printed and delivered to the Department, and that the engraving was done by one of the members of the firm, and not by Mr. Carroll. Messrs. Keating and Ball were not the successors of Hoyer & Ludwig, and never engraved a single stamp for the Department. They printed stamps for the Department from plates designed and engraved by the firm of Archer & Daley, who succeeded Hoyer & Ludwig, as contractors for furnishing stamps. Mr. Archer engraved the first steel plate postage stamp for the Department, and a Mr. Halpin, employed in his office, engraved all of the others, and the plates, dyes, &c. were the property of the Department, and delivered by me to Keating & Ball when I made a contract with them, after it became impossible for Archer & Daley to furnish them. Mr. Archer and Mr. Halpin are both engaged as engravers in this city at this time, and neither of them have any knowledge of the stamp claimed to have been adopted and used by the Department from the time it was engraved, at the suggestion of Mr. Randolph, Secretary of War, to the time when Keating & Ball obtained the contract. The plates furnished by Thos. De La Rue & Co. of London, England, were purchased by an agent sent out by the Department; and his name was not Mayer Gorgas, and my collection of stamps and designs was brought to me by the agent from the office of De La Rue & Co., and has their imprint on it.

I have permitted myself to write at much greater length than I intended, because I feel indignant that any one should attempt to foist upon stamp collectors a bogus stamp, and if you will call at my place of business I can show you official documents to prove it to be an imposition.

De La Rue's stamps were not engraved on steel, as stated in the published letters I am receiving. The plates were simply electrotypes.

Respectfully,

H. ST. GEO. OFFUTT.

Comment is unnecessary after the above. All we have to say is to ask our readers' pardon for having taken so much space last month about this stamp, and we will think that Messrs. Stevens and Carey have been themselves duped rather than supporters of the meanest and poorest imposition that has been offered to the credulity of collectors. We will not mention it again, as Mr. H. St. Geo.

Offutt's letter is a "settler" which decides the fate of *this* beautiful (?) work of art.

THE GUATEMALA STAMP.

To the Editor of the American Stamp Mercury.

The five centavos stamp brown, once sold for genuine can now be authentically stated to be Bogus. It was engraved on steel by Mr. J. A. J. Wilcox, of Boston, for J. Holliand, (a name for the occasion no doubt.—Ed.) at the time supposed by the engraver to be under Government authority, but since he has reason to believe, for the purpose of sale to Stamp Collectors.

E. L. S.—.

Boston, Mass., April 24th, 1868.

THE PARAGUAY STAMP.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

DEAR SIR,—I lately had the pleasure of perusing your stamp publication for April, shown me by a friend. I beg to inform you on one point which you seem to be uncertain about—"the new stamp of Paraguay." I have in my possession, eight copies sent me from Conception by a relative in the employ of Turull & Co., commission merchants.

My friend informs me that they were issued in 1867, and are used for local letters and papers, and as I have in my possession an old envelope with two affixed, and one on a scrap of paper, I send them to you for your examination, and beg you will compare them with those you have; in return for which, I would like your price list.

Begging your kind indulgence, and rendering thanks in anticipation of your favor,

I remain, Sir,

Respectfully yours.

* * *

Answers to Correspondents.

C. W. Norwich, N. Y.—The remarks in another column on the 3 cent black U. S. stamp applies to your brown one with the exception that yours is made with a kerosene lamp.

J. F. C. Philadelphia, Pa.—We don't believe he is; you are not the only inquirer.

F. A. D. Montrose, Pa.—1. A collection such as you describe is worth from five dollars upwards according to the stamps you have. 2. We believe, judging from the numerous recruits Philately obtains from the Numismatic ranks, that twenty years from now stamps will be most in demand.

H. St. G. O. New York.—Accept thanks for information in regard to the Jackson stamp.

W. H. L. Savannah Ga.—If you collect stamps you may include revenues, but if postage stamps, why of course, they are not advisable in your collection.

NOR A JUDGE.—Send us the stamps, or show

them to a dealer, and you can find out the characters of them.

J. B. C. Providence R. I.—Try your hand again at making a good Philatelic Enigma.

Received Since Our Last.

LE TROBROPHILE; No. 41. Paris, France; Pierre Mahé.

THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL; No. 3. Middletown, Conn. National Stamp Co.

This we believe is the last number that will appear of this publication, the company having dissolved.

N. E. P. O. RECORD; Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10, Boston, Mass. Wm. M. Kendall.

Although this is not a Philatelic publication, it has so much postal information, including advertised letters, arrival and departure of Mails, foreign postage and other valuable matters, that we should advise our readers to subscribe to it. It should be in the hands of every person having a regular correspondence.

TIME POSTAL LABEL.

This is a new, original, and very useful little Stamp just now becoming popular, and having a large sale. A specimen is here given.

Its object is to show the recipient of a letter just the hour and day the letter was mailed, that in case of its non-receipt at the proper time, the blame can be placed on the right party. It very frequently, becomes not only an object of great interest but of importance to know just when a letter was mailed. It serves as a monitor to the Postman, to the Post Office Clerk, and to the recipient. The party sending a letter marks a pointer at the hour it leaves his hands, and also fills out the blank below with the month and day. It is for sale at 20 cents per hundred at

F. TRIFET'S.

20 State St., Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS CHEAP.

AUSTRIA, 2 kr. 5 cts., 3 kr. 6 cts., Newspaper stamp, 5 cts.; AUSTRIAN ITALY, 2 sld., 5 cts.; CANADA, 1-2 ct. 2 cts., 1 ct. 3 cts., 2 cts. 5 cts., 3 cts. 8 cts., the set of 7, 90 cts.; GERMANY, 1-4 s. gr. 5 cts., 1-3 s. gr. 6 cts., 1-2 s. gr. 8 cts.; HAMBURG, 1-2 sch. 6 cts.; MOLDO WALLACHIA, 2 bani, 6 cts., 4 bani 10 cts., 18 bani 35 cts.; SPAIN, 5 mill, 5 cts., 10 mill 8 cts.; SWITZERLAND 5 cent. env, 6 cts., 10 cent. env, 8 cts.; VENEZUELA 1-2 centavo, 8 cts., 1 centavo 10 cts.

All the above are unused and lately issued.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,

Boston, Mass.

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

Antigua	2 Varieties	\$0.14
Austria	20 "	.12
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Bavaria, '51-62,	8 "	.20
Bavaria, '67,	4 "	.15
Belgium	6 "	.20
Brazil	5 "	.30
British Guiana,	4 "	.20
Canada	5 "	.12
*Cape of Good Hope Sq.	4 "	1.25
*Confederate States	4 "	.20
Denmark	5 "	.15
*Egypt 1866	7 "	2.30
* " " 1867	6 "	2.00
*France	4 "	.12
" "	10 "	.18
Germany, North	5 "	.18
* " " '68,	3 "	.20
Germany South	10 "	.30
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New Zealand	4 "	.20
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Nova Scotia	5 "	.12
Portugal	5 "	.30
Prussia	25 "	.75
* " "	5 "	.25
Queensland	3 "	.15
*Romagna	9 "	1.75
Roman States,	4 "	.20
Russia	4 "	.20
Saxony	12 "	.40
*Sicily	7 "	1.75
*Servia	4 "	.30
Spain (all issues)	10 "	.50
* " " " "	6 "	.35
* " " July' 67,	4 "	.50
* " " Official, '54,	4 "	.40
* " " " '55,	4 "	.30
Sweden	5 "	.15
Switzerland	12 "	.35
* " " envelopes	2 "	.15
Tasmania	4 "	.20
Trinidad	3 "	.18
*United States 1851	8 "	1.10
*N. Y. P. O.	5 "	2.50
*Wells, Fargo & Co.	11 "	2.00

Victoria	6 "	.25
Western Australia	4 "	.25
Wurtemberg	8 "	.25

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 9,
Boston, Mass.

WANTED! The following stamps in any quantity.

CANADA; $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. sterling, 10d., 12d. and envelopes.

NEW BRUNSWICK; 3d, 6d, 12d, 2 and 17 cents.

NEWFOUNDLAND; 4d, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1s SCARLET, and 12, 13, and 24 cents.

NOVA SCOTIA; 1, 3, 6, 12 pence, and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Also all kinds of Hong Kong, India, Victoria, Mexico, Salvador, New Zealand, Tasmania, and other colonial and South American stamps.

Persons having such will please send them on for inspection with the lowest prices pr. piece, dozen or hundred.

F. TRIFET
6-6t. 20 State St. Boston, Mass.

THE PUBLISHER BEING DESIROUS OF completing his Philatelic Library is in want of the following Papers and Magazine.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS MONTHLY GAZETTE. All above No. 11.

THE POSTMANS KNOCK. Nos. 6 and 7.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS RECORD. Nos. 1 and 2 of Montreal Series.

THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL. Chicago, Illinois. Nos., 7, 9, 10.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP. Complete file.

THE LONDON AND NEW YORK STAMP COLLECTORS REVIEW. Both numbers.

THE STAMP JOURNAL. No. 1.

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THE COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS MAGAZINE. Nos. 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10 to date inclusive.

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F. TRIFET,

20 State St., Boston, Mass

6—tf.

NOTICE.

Boston, April 27, 1868.

I would respectfully inform my friends and patrons, that I have disposed of my business to Mr. F. TRIFET of this city, who will continue it as formerly, and to WHOM ALL ORDERS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED.

E. WILLARD FROST.

As will be seen by the above I have succeeded to Mr. Frost's business, but as a firm of this city are trying to impose on the public by claiming that right I would herewith state a few facts.

At the time of Mr. Frost's retiring, the said firm bought two collections of stamps, a sheet of the same and a lot of old papers, envelopes, paper boxes and letters forming no part of his stock; since that they have put out a circular stating that they are "his only successors, as his BILL OF SALE TO US TESTIFIES, and any party, &c." This is a falsehood as we bought Mr. Frost's stock, custom,

goodwill, &c., and I have his bill of sale to that effect, moreover the following *unsolicited* card to prove the above.

Boston, May 2nd, 1868.

A circular having been brought to my notice, issued by a certain firm in this city, purporting to be my successors in the Stamp Business, I take this occasion to state that Mr. F. Trifet, is my successor and ONLY successor, and any other persons claiming to be such are impostors.

E. WILLARD FROST.

I would call the above facts to the attention of Mr. Frost's friends and patrons and leave them to judge for themselves who are the "impostors," I, with the above letters of Mr. Frost and bill of sale of his business or the said firm without any proof and a bill of sale for "collections," sheet of stamps and letters.

Soliciting a continuance of your patronage.

I remain,

yours respectfully,

F. TRIFET.

To be issued May 20th, sure.

A New and Illustrated DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST

AND
CATALOGUE
OF

American and Foreign Postage Stamps,

For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps.

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The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851 unused, \$1.10,
Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, 2.00,
N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

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I defy comparison with any Dealers' prices, Warranting their Stamps,
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20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

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Companion sheet to the arms of all nations.—Post-paid, 25 cents.

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The set of 116 all different. 75 cents

PACKETS.

Send for list of packets; I would particularly recommend packets No. 3, 7, 13, 21, 25, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 38, and 43. My list of packet is not equaled by any dealer on this continent.

SETS.

For list of sets see page 50. Only a few of the Natsls, embossed issue, at \$8.00 per set of seven.

UNITED STATES LOCALS.

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F. TRIFET,

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The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, JUNE, 1868.

No. VIII.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

TERMS:-

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The postage, 12 cents a year, must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

No Advertisements Received.

Address all communications as follows:

AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

Box 444, Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

PARAGUAY.—We now give an engraving of the stamp described in our last numbers. Our French cotemporary doubts this stamp and says, "we have already spoken of the new trial made by the American Inventors, in the shape of a stamp for Paraguay. But thinking that the public cannot be put too much on guard against these little thefts, we have decided to go to the expense of getting an engraving that speaks more to the eyes than any long discourse." We take it for a genuine stamp, and shall have the pleasure of sending our friend the specimen in our collection to satisfy him of the same.



ORANGE FREE STATE.—We also give an engraving of the 1 penny stamp of the lately issued series. For the benefit of our readers we would say that the Free State of Orange is situated on the coast of Cape Colony and its stamps should be placed in the African portion of their Album.



DENMARK.—A new stamp has been added to the current series, viz: 8 skilling, color stone, perforated and watermarked with a crown.

WURTEMBERG.—It is said that a new value, 7 kreuzer, slate blue, is to replace the 6 kreuzer as soon as the supply of the latter gives out.



NEW SOUTH WALES.—A Stamp issued sometime since, but which had escaped our notice, is represented in the annexed engraving; its color is red and it is perforated.

SWITZERLAND.—The third envelope, value 30 centimes, light blue, has just been issued.

SAXONY.—Our rather small list of novelties closes this month with a 2 pfennige stamp, issued by the Dresden Express Company, and struck in blue on bands of white paper.

REVIEW OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF DR. MAGNUS,
Extracted from the Philatelist.

Journals of every size will not fail to inform their readers about the wonders of the exhibition in the Field of Mars. But if we may judge by the slight attention apparently paid by the public to the cases containing postage stamps, and the disrespect evinced by the principal journals towards timbro-

maniacs, we must not expect any account from them of the riches of the exhibition in this respect. What may be seen there would be the glory of many an album. We hasten to make amateurs acquainted with the interesting objects in question.

Whatever relates to postage stamps is disseminated in several groups, and in a certain number of classes. In the first group, 5th class, engravings and medals; in the 2nd group, 6th class, printing and library productions; and 8th class, application of design and labour to the useful arts; in the 5th group, 40th class, productions of mines, metal work, &c.; in the 6th group, 59th class, material and appliances of paper, dying matter, and impressions; in the 10th group, 89th class, material and methods for instructing children; and 95th class, instruments and special appliances for the use of first-class workmen. The understanding scarcely follows the motives of this diffusion, but we leave the commission to justify itself. The following reason may be given. Postage-stamps may be regarded—

- 1st. As works of art.
- 2nd. As specimens of engraving.
- 3rd. As printing products.
- 4th. As necessitating special machines for engraving or dividing them.
- 5th. As elements of instruction.

Accordingly, as examined under one of these heads they may enter one of the numerous classes admitted by the commission. We must really make a reservation for the 89th class.

We do not comprehend how a collection to be sold for £140 can be attainable by children, if even adults. We fancy the exhibition has been made the pretext for a little private commerce in postage stamps, whose apparent motive is the view of M. de S.'s collection. Every time either ourselves or our friends have sought to visit this collection, some plausible pretext has been found for putting off its examination, such as fatigue, the multitude of visitors, the fear of soiling it, &c.; while these motives never existed with regard to the stamps for sale, S. G. D. G. (*sans garantie du gouvernement*). It is true these latter are just such as may be found in tobacconist's windows, and whose want of rarity is not redeemed even by cleanliness. Let us hope that this will be rectified.

Our readers will allow us to conduct them step by step into the middle of the exhibition. We will take care to indicate the place where each object can be found. Enter the 2nd gallery, dedicated to the material and appliances of the liberal arts; and, in obedience to the rules of courtesy

towards our guests, turn to the right, and first penetrate into the English compartment.

One name comes uppermost in our mind, and we immediately look for the case of M. De la Rue, that renowned manufacturer of Stamps for Great Britain, the English colonies, and other foreign countries. To our great surprise his name is wanting in the catalogue; but, in compensation, his exhibition is conspicuously apparent in the *Rue d'Angleterre*, and that in a form convenient for examination. It consists of black frames fastened to a pillar by one of their vertical sides, which may be examined in turn like the leaves of a book. There are objects of all sorts, caricatures, music, playing cards of every kind, all doubtless interesting, but foreign to our present purpose. The stamps are contained in five sheets. There are to be seen together, postage, bill and receipt, and various other special stamps, all, however relating to fiscal purposes. On the first sheet, in rows of six by eight, and all perforated are:

Bermudas: 1, 2, 6 pence, and one shilling.

Vancouver's Island: 5 and 10 cents.

Ceylon: The recently-emitted 3 pence.

Natal: 1 Shilling.

Malta: $\frac{1}{2}$ penny.

All these stamps are impressed in colour on glazed paper, and must bear the c.c. and crown watermark,

[Here follows a description of the Natal, now familiar to our readers, but then first seen by the learned doctor.]

On a second frame we find four small sheets, each containing 15 Belgian stamps with the effigy of Leopold I.:—

10 centimes, blue.

20 “ carmine.

30 “ lilac.

40 “ green.

also six sheet each containing 50 impressions of the 1 franc in light brown.

It will be remarked that the colours are not the official ones. They are essays printed on cardboard, but nevertheless, highly interesting.

The third frame is likewise filled with stamps on cardboard, those of new South Wales, with the legend STAMP DUTY, values 4, 6, and 8 pence, 1 shilling, 1s. 6d., 2 shillings. These are rectangular. In the midst is the Queen's portrait in a circle, printed in lilac, with the legend, NEW SOUTH WALES STAMP DUTY. The rest of the stamp is filled in with coloured ornamentation. Above the circle is the value in figure, this is repeated below in letters.

A fourth frame contains on the left a group of

the following 25 stamps in the official colours, impressed on cardboard with the greatest care:—

British Honduras: 1 penny, 6 p., 1 shilling.

Confederate States: 1c., (Colquhoun), [who may this be, will the *Philatelist* tell us? *ED. MERCURY.*] and 5 c., (J. Davis.)

Jamaica: Revenue, 1 penny, and the well known 1½d and 3d.; postage. 2, 3, 4, and 6p., and 1s.

British Columbia: 3 pence, paleblue.

Natal: 1 shilling, (previously mentioned.)

Italy: the eight stamps emitted in 1863.

Belgium: 30 centimes, green and carmine.

Pendant to these, on the right, is a group of 25 stamps, consisting of different fiscals, viz:—

Jamaica: 1 p., 10 p., 5 shillings.

Hong Kong: Stamp Duty, 3 25, 50 cents; 1, 2, 3, 10 dollars.

Great Britain: Ireland petty Sessions, green and pink. Registration companies, 6 pence blue, ditto pink. 1 sh. green, also violet, 5 sh. brown, £1 green, also orange.

Then follows a description of the new 5 shilling stamp, impressed in three colours, green, orange, carmine.

After these some Inland Revenue stamps, type different from those in use: green, brown, and violet.

The interval of these two groups is occupied by three charming stamps destined for Australia. They represent a sheep in the midst of pasture-land, beneath which is the word *LICENSE* and the value.

2 shillings, lilac; 10 sh., green; 20 sh., brown.

The rest of the frame is filled with different fiscal stamps, such as those of the Probate Court and the Matrimonial Cause. In the midst is the current set of English stamps, except the 1p and 2p, on cardboard but having no letters at the angles. Among these are two stamps apparently intended to complete the series.

[The doctor then describes our recently issued 10 pence and 2 shillings, remarking that the small corner squares, designed to contain the variable letters as well as the minute compartment appropriated to the almost microscopic figure which used to puzzle collectors in these and the other English specimens, are all left vacant.]

The colours of the specimens exhibited are—

10 pence, sky-blue, orange, carmine, pale-brown. 2 shillings, brown, green, blue.

Below these appear the postage stamp of Cape of Good Hope: 6 p., 1sh., usual colours.

Belgium: 30 centimes, light brown, blue.

Natal: 1 shilling, green.

Inland Revenue: 1 penny.

India, foreign bills: 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12 annas, 1 rupee, 1r. 8a. 2, 3, 4 6, 8, 12, 18, 24 rupees, 5 livres, 2 livres, 10 rupees, all alike on cardboard, rectangular oblong design varying with the value but all preserving a recognizable family appearance.

Finally: the stamps of New South Wales, like the preceding in design, but different in colour.

[Our writer proceeds to remark that apparently three new values are contemplated by the English post-office, but that perhaps the project will never take effect. He must be better informed long ere this.]

The fifth frame contains stamps impressed on cardboard in black. The following may be seen—

Hong Kong: the complete postal series.

India: 8 pies, 1 anna, 2a., 4a., last type, 6a. 8p., new value, 8 annas.

Jamaica: Revenue and commercial stamps, and the complete postal set.

New South Wales: 1p. and 2p. current.

Confederate States: the 1 and 5 cents already indicated.

Bermudas, British Columbia, Vancouver, British Honduras, Cape of Good Hope, Bahamas, Malta, Sierra Leone, Mauritius: sets in use at various times.

Italian commercials and postage-stamps of all values, including the 2 c. and the new 20 c.

India: Commercial, telegraphic, and foreign bill stamps.

Italy: *MARCA DA BOLLO* stamps, emitted in 1862, and the three passport and legalization stamps of the same period.

Finally, the commercial stamps of Jamaica, the Cape, Hong Kong, and India. [Our author proceeds to describe the new Indian stamps, 6 annas 8 p., already noted in this magazine.]

We remark, moreover, the telegraphic stamps of the same country. They are eight in number, and of the following values: 4 and 8 annas, 1 rupee, 1r. 2a., 5, 10, 25, 50 rupees. They have Queen Victoria's portrait twice repeated, with the inscription: *GOVERNMENT OF INDIA: TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT*. All the values, as in the commercials are of different designs. Here is another country then which has adopted the system of pre-paying telegraphic despatches by means of stamps. A boon for amateurs who collect specimens of such a nature.

What riches! How beautiful and fresh these stamps are at first sight! Yet a more attentive examination does not satisfy the mind. The impression is too faint. The nature of the glazed

paper does not allow the ink to penetrate. The surrounding ornaments are also much too elaborate. They are pretty stamps; but they are not works of art.

Would you know their designer? In a corner of a small compartment behind the 1st gallery, 5th class, is a modest frame bearing this simple indication:—F. JOUBERT, LONDON, STEEL ENGRAVING IN RELIEF.

Then are exhibited many well-known stamps, all impressed in black; all showing the central portion only, the frame being hidden under grey paper. We find there—

India: Receipt, bill or draft, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna.

Hong Kong: 12 cents.

Jamaica: 1 penny.

Great Britain: Customs, 1 penny.

Belgium: Portrait of Leopold I, without frame.

Mexico: Portrait of Maximilian, without frame.

Jamaica: 10 shillings,

India: 4 annas, corners channeled, British Columbia and Vancouver: $2\frac{1}{2}$ p.

Portugal: IMPOSTO DO SELLO, portrait of Don Pedro.

Italy: MARCA DA BOLLO, 1 lira, 20 centesimi.

Confederate States: 5 cents, Jefferson Davis.

Portugal: Portrait of Don Luis, without frame.

We learn from the examination of this tableau that the stamps engraved with Maximilian's portrait are the work of M. Joubert. It nevertheless strikes us that their impression took place in Mexico; and what makes us think so is the staining of the paper owing to the bad management of the plate. The impression would have been better in London. Among these portraits we remark that of J. Davis. It is a firmly-engraved stamp, a true work of art, and does honor to the house of De la Rue.

Whatever opinion may be entertained of the value of these engravings, it is not a little flattering to our national self-love that Great Britain and the majority of English possessions are indebted for their stamps to a pair of Frenchmen.

We must not quit the English section without signalling in the lower part of a large frame, the 5 and 10 centesimos of Montevideo, figures with arms, impressed in black. This frame belongs to Messrs. Maclure and Macdonald of Glasgow. We find also in the glass case of Messrs. Causton, Joseph, and Son, London, among specimens of bank notes, two stamps whose use it is impossible for us to pronounce. They represent a swan in an oval. Above is W. AUSTRALIA; below, ONE POUND. One is a pure-brown, the other is orange. (Deed stamps probably.) We remark, moreover, the absence of

stamps in the glass cases of several exhibitors who expose specimens of bank notes, &c., and the total absence of the productions of Messrs. Nissen and Parker, and Waterlow and Son. [*To be continued.*]

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

THE ST. LOUIS STAMPS.—“Le Timbrophile,” in its last number, has an article on these Stamps by which it proves that they are bogus. Although we have no objection to this, we mention the fact because it closes its argument by the following:

“These Stamps probably come from that Bostonian factory which, lately, has the privilege of inundating the market with stamps that have never existed but in the inventive brain of the director of said manufactory.”

We do not deny the fact, but would state that we have nothing to do in the direction of the “Manufactory,” and to contradict all inference in that way that might be brought home to us.

HOW TO GET ANSWERS AND SAVE POSTAGE.—The Typographic Advertiser has the following under the above heading which we would call to the attention of our readers. The parts in *Italics* we add for our own benefit.

Persons who expect replies to their letters in due course of mail ought to commit to memory the following obvious rules:—

1. Write legibly, if you can. *If you cannot, get somebody that can to do it for you.* Florishes are not essential.

2. Date your letter.

3. Give your town, county and state. (We may remark, by the way, that Congress should appoint a standing committee to change every duplicated name of town throughout the country, using the aboriginal terms as far as they will go.)

4. Use only as many words as will clearly express your meaning.

5. When you order from parties who do not know you, give references, *or better still, send the amount of the order.*

6. Sign your name,—“yours truly” not being sufficient to identify the personality of the writer. *You need not sign it more than once but have it plain, principally the initial of the last name.*

7. If the subject matter relates solely to your own profit or convenience, enclose a stamp or a

stamped envelope. *We require it in all cases.*

8. If you intend to enclose a money order, or a sample, be sure to do so. *Otherwise, we will not attend to it.*

9. See that the envelope is effectually closed.

10. Put on the full amount of stamps. *If you don't put any on, your letter never reaches its destination.*

11. Address the envelope plainly and correctly. *There is no need of putting such addresses as the following which we once received.*

F. TRIFET,

Publisher of the Am. Stamp Mercury.

20 State Street,

Boston or

or 57 Court Str. Box 444 Mass.

dealer in Stamps.

12. Post the letter.

13. *Call for the answer at the Post Office, and don't let it come back to us endorsed "Not called for."*

If, these precautions being used, you do not get a reply in due time, you may conscientiously rail at Uncle Samuel, and not blame us for the delay.

Puzzles for Stamp Collectors.

ENIGMAS.

13.—I am composed of 39 letters.

My 25, 14, 27, 30, 16, 20, has lately issued stamps.

" 28, 3, 10, 13, 12, 2, 15, 26, 8, 27, 22, 32, 34, 15, 27, 39, is the inscription on a Stamp.

" 5, 34, 16, 4, 8, 35, 19, 26, 1, is the value on a Venezuela Stamp.

" 34, 31, 6, 8, 28, 28, 22, 16, is the condition of U. S. stamps at the present time.

" 38, 30, 23, 13, is what some stamps are.

" 28, 17, 20, 33, 9, 6, 37, 39, 13, 7, is a gratis stamp paper.

" 29, 35, 11, 15, 24, 16, 30, 16, is a country that uses stamps.

" 21, 14, 12, 29, 26, has but one stamp.

" 18, 14, 27, 8, 5, 34, 7, issued stamps in 1851.

" 36, 37, 6, 30, is a West India Island that uses stamps.

My whole is the name of two stamp publications.

14.—I am composed of 54 letters,

My 48, 33, 37, 4, 20, 7, 19, 16, 33, 3, 26, 13, 33.

33, 45, is the inscription on a stamp.

My 15, 40, 50, 1, 21, 4, 9, 38, 5, 4, 24, 33, 54, 14, 30, 43, 51, 3, 33, 23, 43, 17, 22, 4, 25, 4, inscription on a stamp.

" 33, 36, 18, 48, 6, is a country that has some rare stamps.

" 52, 16, 33, 46, 53, 40, 33, 41, is a country of Asia that uses stamps.

" 15, 40, 10, 1, 42, 46, 11, 39, is a country in Europe that uses stamps.

" 43, 20, 45, 26, 12, issued stamps in 1866.

" 8, 15, 32, 4, 33, has had a large number of stamps.

" 17, 45, 27, 31, 26, 38, 10, 46, 49, 22, is a defunct stamp paper.

" 47, 27, 10, 29, 11, 34, 40, 13, 50, issued stamps in 1857.

" 35, 38, 33, 24, 34, 48, is one of the British Provinces that uses stamps.

" 16, 33, 3, 50, 2, 4, 28, 39, 4, 33, 46, is the value on a stamp.

" 52, 38, 31, 44, 49, 10, 46, issued stamps in 1859.

My whole is the name of a stamp album and its author.

Answers to Puzzles in Our Last.

8.—Because they are green.

9.—Because it takes notes.

10.—The American Stamp Mercury.

11.—Constantinople.

12.—Wanted, contributors to puzzles.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Canada Envelopes.

To the Editor of THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

SIR:—It has always been a disputed point, among philatelists as to whether the Canada envelope stamps on buff paper were genuine government emissions, or *myths* gotten up to sell. I myself have been for some time fully convinced in my own mind that they were bogus, but as many doubt it, I herewith present a letter received in answer to one addressed to the Post Master General of Canada, by me. It is quite surprising to me to see that Messrs. Alfred Smith & Co. have included them in their catalogue, which I supposed was an axiom to go by, thinking that they did not assert fallacies. Should this come to their notice, I shall expect to see them omitted in the next edition of their catalogue.

POST OFFICE, QUEBEC, CANADA,

April 30th, 1868.

SIR:—Stamped envelopes were issued on white

paper, but *never on buff*. We have a new issue of stamps for the Dominion, the old issue being recalled. No envelope stamps under the new issue.

R. G. PATTON,
Ass't P. M. G.

W. A. K. Meriden, Conn.

The above letter proves the correctness of my former supposition, and fully proves the character of those stamps.

Respectfully,
W. A. K.

Meriden, Conn.

Answers to Correspondents.

W. H. S. Easton, Pa.—1: The "Mercury" has over 400 subscribers. 2, We don't know the owner's name or the number of Stamps in the largest collection. The largest hereabouts consists of 2500, counting locals. Our own (two months since we began) numbers 1700. 3. We cannot give you the names of the subscribers as it would not pay. 4. The firm you speak of is not a "Hoax" but almost so. 5. We have most all the newly issued stamps for sale as fast as they come out. 6. All stamps sold by the publisher since June 1867 are genuine.

C. W. Norwich, N. Y.—Wells, Fargo & Co's stamps were issued by them to prepay postage on letters and parcels conveyed by them, by their coaches on the overland route to California. They are now obsolete.

INQUIRER.—We will give a list next month of the different *varieties* of Wurtemberg stamps that we should collect.

J. W. P. Richmond, Va.—If you will send your stamps on for examination, we will tell you whether they are genuine or not.

METROPOLITAN.—The "S. C. Record" has not been published since last November though we have its publisher's word that it has not yet "gone up."

C. W. A. New York.—Your Basle stamp is a forgery.

Received Since Our Last.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY; Nos. 2 and 3. New York; The N. Y. Philatelic Society.

This publication of which we have only seen the two last number and doubt the existence of the first is a 12 page octavo size paper, four pages being

devoted to New York dealer's advertisement and the balance, in the number from which we write with the transactions of the New York Philatelic Society. A chapter on newly issued stamps, Editor's Mail Bag, containing several articles, among them one taken from our pages and not credited, correspondence and other articles. It is well printed, but we would advise the publishers to use better paper, and not make the margin larger than the reading matter.

As a whole, it is a nice thing and we hope that it will succeed and continue to flourish.

Among the advertisements, we notice Confederate 10 cts. rose head of *Beauregard* for sale cheap. Would our contemporary inform us what they are? our curiosity has been excited lately on the Confederate stamps.

LE TIMBROPHILE, No. 42, Paris, France; Pierre Mahe.

N. E. P. O. RECORD; Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14, Boston, Mass. Wm. M. Kendall.

[In this column we will give our *honest* and *unrestrained* opinion of all and any Timbrophilic publication that may come to our notice. If it deserves it, we will praise it, if it does not, we will criticise it, and hope their publishers will look on it in the same light, as we do and not expect "puffs" when they don't deserve it.]

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

We have letters sent to the following addresses and returned to us as "not called for." The parties to whom they are addressed will please claim them within ninety days, or they will be destroyed.

W. E. Cushing, Cleveland, Ohio.

W. L. Rich, Yonkers, N. Y.

A. F. Stoll, Orange, N. Y. (?)

A. L. Selles, Westchester,—

N. B. Strong, Hartford, Conn.

Also a lot of stamps for a young lady in Hartford, who forgot to sign her name to the order.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS CHEAP.

AUSTRIA, 2 kr. 5 cts., 3 kr. 6 cts., Newspaper stamp, 5 cts.; AUSTRIAN ITALY, 2 sld., 5 cts.; CANADA, 1-2 ct. 2 cts., 1 ct. 3 cts., 2 cts. 5 cts., 3 cts. 8 cts., the set of 7, 90 cts.; GERMANY, 1-4 s. gr. 5 cts., 1-3 s. gr. 6 cts., 1-2 s. gr. 8 cts.; HAMBURG, 1-2 sch. 6 cts.; MOLDO WALLACHIA, 2 bani, 6 cts., 4 bani 10 cts., 18 bani 35 cts.; SPAIN, 5 mill, 5 cts., 10 mill 8 cts.; SWITZERLAND 5 cent. env, 6 cts., 10 cent, env, 8 cts.; VENEZUELA 1-2 centavo, 8 cts., 1 centavo 10 cts.

All the above are unused and lately issued.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

Antigua	2 Varieties	\$0.14
Austria	20 "	.60
Austrian Italy	6 "	.20
Baden	10 "	.30
Bavaria, '51-62,	8 "	.20
Bavaria, '67,	4 "	.15
Belgium	6 "	.20
Brazil	5 "	.30
British Guiana,	4 "	.20
Brunswick	5 "	.25
*Canada 1851	6 "	6.00
* " '60-68	8 "	.15
* " '68	7 "	.90
*Cape of Good Hope Sq.	4 "	1.25
Denmark	5 "	.15
*Egypt 1866	7 "	2.30
* " 1867	6 "	2.00
*France	4 "	.12
"	10 "	.18
Germany, North	5 "	.18
* " " '68,	3 "	.20
Germany South	10 "	.30
* " " '68,	3 "	.20
Great Britain	12 "	.30
Greece	7 Varieties	.30
Grenada	2 "	.12
*Hamburg Boten	116 "	.75
Hamburg,	4 "	.20
Hanover	6 "	.25
Hong Kong	10 "	.45
India	6 "	.25
*Ionian Islands	3 "	.50
Italy	10 "	.35
Jamaica	4 "	.25
*Luxemburg	4 "	.15
Mecklenburg Schwerin	4 "	.25
Moldo Wallachia 1868,	3 "	.80
Natal	3 "	.15
* " embossed,	7 "	8.00
New Brunswick	5 "	.12
New South Wales	4 "	.20
New Zealand	4 "	.20
*Nicaragua	2 "	.40
Norway	4 "	.20
Nova Scotia	5 "	.12
Portugal	5 "	.30
Prussia	25 "	.75
* " "	5 "	.25
Queensland	3 "	.15
*Romagna	9 "	1.75
Roman States,	6 "	.30
Russia	4 "	.20
Salvador	4 "	.75
Saxony	12 "	.40
Schleswing Holstein	5 "	.25
*Sicily	7 "	1.75
*Servia	4 "	.30
Spain (all issues)	10 "	.50
* " " "	7 "	.35
* " July' 67,	4 "	.50
* " Official, '54,	4 "	.40
* " " '55,	4 "	.30
Straits Settlement	6 "	1.00
Sweden	5 "	.15

Switzerland	12 "	.35
* " envelopes	3 "	.30
Tasmania	4 "	.20
Trinidad	3 "	.18
*United States 1851	8 "	1.10
*N. Y. P. O.	5 "	2.50
*Wells, Fargo & Co.	11 "	2.00
Victoria	6 "	.25
Western Australia	4 "	.25
Wurtemberg	8 "	.25

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,
Boston, Mass.

Issued June 1st.

A New and Illustrated
DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST
AND
CATALOGUE
OF
American and Foreign
Postage Stamps,
For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps. All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT. Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 15 cents, or 5 three cent stamps. A few copies will be interleaved with blank sheets to make notes, &c. These must be ordered in advance. Price, 25 cents. Address

F. TRIFET, 20 State St.,
Boston, Mass.

WANTED! The following stamps in any quantity.
CANADA; $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. sterling, 10d., 12d. and envelopes.

NEW BRUNSWICK; 3d, 6d, 12d, 2 and 17 cents.
NEWFOUNDLAND; 4d, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1s SCARLET, and 12, 13, and 24 cents.

NOVA SCOTIA; 1, 3, 6, 12 pence, and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.
Also all kinds of Hong Kong, India, Victoria, Mexico, Salvador, New Zealand, Tasmania, and other colonial and South American stamps.

Persons having such will please send them on for inspection with the lowest prices pr. piece, dozen or hundred.
F. TRIFET
6-6t. 20 State St. Boston, Mass.

UNITED STATES.

The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851 unused, . . . \$1.10,
Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, . . . 2.00,
N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, . . . 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

F. Trifet's June Announcements.

A New Illustrated Price Catalogue.

F. TRIFET'S NEW CATALOGUE published June 1st, gives the description and value of every stamp issued from 1840 to June, '68. It is illustrated with engravings of many new and rare stamps, and is the only complete catalogue published in America.

Price 15 cents. Interleaved with blank pages for making notes, &c., 25 cents.

40 Varieties for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF used stamps contains forty varieties, including Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, &c. All warranted genuine.

Cheap Italian Stamps.

ROMAGNA, SET OF NINE, \$1.75; Sicily, set of seven, \$1.75; Naples, set of eight, \$1.25. All unused and warranted genuine.

New Canada Stamps in Packets.

IN THE ONE DOLLAR PACKET OF UNUSED STAMPS there is a $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 3 cent stamp of the new issue of Canada, besides 35 other stamps. All warranted genuine.

18 Colonial Stamps for 25 Cents.

F. TRIFET'S TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF used colonial stamps contains 19 varieties, including Barbadoes, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, &c.—All warranted genuine.

Cheap Sets of Unused Stamps.

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20 Used and Unused Stamps for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED AND Unused Stamps contains 20 varieties, including Greece, Brazil, Barbadoes, &c. All warranted genuine.

Hamburg Boten Stamps.

SETS OF 116, INCLUDING HAMER'S ADHESIVES & Envelopes, 2 sets of Hamonia, 4 of Scheerenbeck, 2 of Lafrentz, Krantz, &c., being the complete set for 75 cents. Warranted genuine.

The Cheapest Album advertised.

MULREADY ALBUM NO. 1. BOUGHT UP TO the present time, spaces being provided for all new issues, small oblong, cloth, post free, 90 cents.

This is the best Album, for the money.

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ON RECEIPT OF 25 CENTS, I WILL SEND packet number four which contains 40 varieties of Confederate *Fac Similes*. They are well executed and very cheap. A discount will be made on a dozen packets.

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The latest Descriptive Catalogue.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND-BOOK.— It gives a description of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1867 compiled by the late C. M. Seltz. Post-paid, 25 cents.

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HILL'S BOSTON STAMP ALBUM, contains places for 3000 Stamps, is divided into countries, each country having sufficient spaces for all past present and future issues. Printed in carmine ink, 4 to cloth gilt sides, \$3.00 post free, \$3.25.

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15 unused stamps for 25 cents.

YOU CAN GET OF ME FIFTEEN UNUSED STAMPS for 25 cents., including Bavaria, Baden, Italy France &c. All warranted genuine.

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ADHESIVE PAPER. BY TAKING A SMALL PIECE of this paper, and folding it in halves, you can firmly and neatly mount your stamps in your album by merely moistening it, and after fixing one half to the stamp, stick the other half on the book. Price, per package of ten sheets, 5 cents and stamp.

Veni Vidi, Vici, Series of Packets.

NEW PACKET LIST ISSUED MAY 20TH. SEND one stamp for it. You will find on it many packets that cannot be equaled and none that can be beaten by any dealer in this Country.

Confederate Stamps, Cheap.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FILL YOUR SETS. 1 CENT orange, \$3.00. 2 cents green, \$2.50. 5 cents green or blue, 60 cents. 10 cents blue, \$1.00. 10 cent rose \$2.50. Ten cents blue \$2.50. All the above are the old issue, ery rare and cheap, also warranted genuine.

If you try other dealers and are not satisfied, try me.

ONLY ONE TRIAL IS SOLICITED AND IF NOT satisfactory, I am willing to return the money. This is an advantage that other dealers don't give you.

Cheaper than Ever.

UNITED STATES STAMPS, COMPLETE SET OF 1851 issue \$1.10. Set of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Stamps \$2.00. Set of N. Y. P. O. stamps, one stamp and four proofs, \$2.50. All unused and warranted genuine.

60 used and unused Stamps for 75 cents.

NEW PACKET NO. 25, CONTAINS 60 USED AND unused stamps. This packet is one of the cheapest of the list, contains no duplicates and all the stamps are genuine.

Well mixed European Stamps.

CONTINENTALS IN LARGE OR SMALL LOTS. 100 for 25 cents, 500 \$1.15. Better quality 100 for 50 cents; 500 \$2.00.

Wood cuts of newly issued Stamps.

ENGRAVINGS OF NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS These are electrolytes of well executed cuts and are suitable to illustrate dealer's lists, circulars, &c. 17 varieties now ready, price \$1.00 each, or \$15.00 for the set.

MUMREAY ALBUM, No. 1.

The American Stamp Mercury.

ENTERTAINING READING FOR STAMP COL- lectors as well as others. The best Stamp Paper in America. Is always quoted as the authority. Subscription only 50 cents per year. Examine this number and if you are not a subscriber you will soon be one.

NONPAREIL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM.

175 Stamps for \$3.00

THE THREE DOLLAR PACKET OF USED AND unused stamps contains 175 varieties including Holland, Western Australia, Hamburg 1868, also Germany, Wurtemberg Parma, new Canada, Turk's Island, Sardinia &c. All warranted genuine.

Wanted to Buy

STAMPS OF ALL KINDS, PARTICULARLY THE first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Colonial stamps of all kinds, no matter how common or rare, and all other stamps. Also collections.

The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, JULY, 1868.

No. IX.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

TERMS:

Single Copies,	-	-	-	-	\$.10
One Copy to One Address, One year,	-	-	-	-	.50
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ALL THE BACK NUMBERS CAN BE HAD.

No Advertisements Received.

Address all communications as follows:

AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

Box 444, Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

Our list this month is uncommonly small, and therefore few illustrations can be given, we hope next month to be able to give a better assortment, both of stamps and engravings. This time we commence with a beautiful set of stamps for

BOLIVIA.—We have seen but one value, the ten, but are indebted to the *Journal of Philately* for the description of the others. The design is a landscape in the centre, consisting of mountains, cattle, a star, &c. This is contained in an oval, covering part of flags, spears, &c., nine stars below. CORREOS DE BOLIVIA above, DIEZ CENTAVOS below and figures of value in upper angles.

They are rectangular, perforated and unwater-

marked and consist of the following values:

5	centavos green,
10	" vermilion,
50	" blue,
100	" yellow,
500	" black.

ECUADOR.—We have in our collection a 12 real stamp, same design as the $\frac{1}{2}$ and 1 real, color rose. Is this a newly issued, or a "discovery." We pause for a reply.

WURTEMBERG.—The 7 kreuzer stamp noticed in our last is now in use.

CONFEDERATE STATES.—Once more we are called to speak of the Jackson (?) stamp by an article in the *S. C. Magazine*. This paper extracts Mr. Stephen's letter in our April number and does not understand part of it. Mr. S., speaking of the one and ten cent stamps does not mean the TEN head of Davis, as the *Magazine* has it, but of the ten Jackson. We hope to see in its next number the letter of Mr. St. George Offut which will, we think, warn the English Timbrophilist from being swindled by this humbug. To further help American collectors to detect it, we give an engraving of it.

While on this subject we may state that a New-York firm has, we have been told, a postmarked specimen on a whole envelope, of the recently denounced St. Louis stamps.

LEVANT.—A new set of stamps has been issued to supersede those now in use. They consist of

1	Kop., brown,
3	" green,
5	" blue,
10	" green and rose.

All of them are on white paper and perforated.

NORWAY.—A new value has appeared for this country. The design is the same as the last issue, 1 skilling flock.



THE VARIETIES OF THE WURTEMBERG STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

We do not propose in this short article to give a minute description of all the stamps of Wurtemberg, but only of those which we think ought to be collected. Our ideas of collecting stamps are as follows :

1st. The real stamp as first issued.
2d. The different *standard* shades, not those done by the effects of the sun or acids.

3d. The different *kinds* of perforations. The mode of counting the number of holes is, to our minds, perfectly absurd. Why not collect stamps with thin or thick gum or no gum at all? It would not be more nonsensical.

4th. Watermarks when they serve to denote the date of an issue, such as the 1855-6-7 Spanish.

With the above rules we find 31 varieties of adhesive stamps have been issued for Wurtemberg. It is the list of these 31 varieties that we propose to give in this article.

FIGURE IN CENTER.

I. No threads, unperforated, colored paper.

- 1 Kr. buff,
- 3 " yellow,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " violet.

ARMS.

II. With silk thread, not perforated, white paper.

- 1 Kr. brown,
- 3 " orange,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " blue.

III. No thread, not perforated.

- 1 Kr. brown,
- 3 " orange,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " blue.

IV. No threads, perforated by machine.

- 1 Kr. brown,
- 3 " orange,
- 6 " green,
- 9 " rose,
- 18 " blue.

V. No threads, perforated by machine.

- 1 Kr. green,
- 3 " rose,
- 6 " blue,

9 " brown,

18 " orange.

VI. No threads, perforated by *roulette*.

1 Kr. green,

3 " rose,

6 " blue,

7 " "

9 " brown,

18 " orange.

The above are what varieties we collect, besides which there are an average of two shades to each stamp making in all about 65 varieties.

If our readers collect all these and do the same with each country they need not be astonished when they ask some magazine the number of stamps issued and they tell him 3000 and in the next answer "Mr. So-and-So has 4000 stamps in his collection."

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Canada Envelopes Again.

To the Editor of the AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

SIR:— Prompted by a desire to put collectors on their guard, against being imposed upon, and wishing to settle a long disputed point, I wrote to the Post Master General of Canada, asking if the Envelope Stamps of that Province were ever printed on buff paper. You know the result for the fact that I send you a copy of a letter received in answer, stating that they *never were printed on buff paper*. It would be supposed that information coming from that source would be an axiom to go by, but in this case it is not. I have been laboring under a great mistake. I have now received information on the subject, which warrants me in asserting the impression on *buff* paper to be *Proofs and taken from the same dies that the white ones are printed from*. Therefore they are just as worthy of insertion in a collection as any proofs. I can present sufficient proof to establish the truth of this assertion if required. Asking pardon for thus encroaching upon your valuable space.

I remain, Sir, Yours Truly,

W. A. K.

Meriden, Conn.

We differ from our correspondent. Proofs *have* been struck from the real dies on buff paper but *only a few*. Those in question are in great number and they are forthcoming as fast as money to pay for them. We always did and always will consider these as *well executed forgeries* and beg our correspondent to "present sufficient proof" to establish the genuineness of these stamps and then, and not till then, shall we believe in their genuine character.

PHILATELY.

This is the new fangled term which a few egotists in Europe and a very few more in America, have in their self-sufficient wisdom decided to be the term by which the science of stamp collecting shall henceforth and for ever be designated.

Before accepting the word however, it might be as well to ascertain whence the same high sounding term is derived.

The coiners of the words gravely inform us that "Philately" is compounded from two Greek words, one of which means a *friend* and the other *exemption from tax* and on the strength of these two words, the word "Philatelist" literally "antitaxationist" is introduced to an enlightened community. So far, so good; in that sense, we have no objection whatever to the word "Philately," nay more we are an ardent Philatelist ourself and have a righteous contempt for income rates, special licenses, manufacturer's taxes, beer barrel stamps and other impositions as well as for the mercenary officials who impose them; but we respectfully submit that anti-taxationist and Stamp Collector are not synonymous terms, and further that not even the widest stretch of the imagination of the amateur lexicographers who coined the term can convince any sensible collector that the word "Philately," either in its derivation or literal sense, is in any way applicable as designating the science of stamp collecting and for which purpose we will venture the remark that the word *Timbrophil* has hitherto been found in every way suitable without taxing either the patience of collectors or the brains (if they have any) of the pedantic egotists who coined the lovely phrase *Philately*.

REVIEW OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF DR. MAGNUS,

Extracted from the Philatelist.

[continued from page 56.]

Among the English machinery, near the pyramid of Australian gold and the staircase leading to the gallery overlooking it, is all the apparatus pertaining to an English post-office. Separate tables for printed matter, &c., that on which letters are stamped, and the machine operating thereat, which is self-supplying with ink, and at one stroke impresses both date and the characteristic mark of the issuing post-office. The different

registered inscriptions are multiplied by means of copying paper interposed between the sheet bearing the actual writing and another, sometimes even a triplicate. Here is seen also both a simple letter-weight, and a graduated one denoting *grammes* as well as ounces. Farther on is the counter of the post-office. On one side stands a pillar box analogous to some in various parts of Paris; on another, a second box, fixed in a wall. We see, too, a miniature model of the machine invented by Messrs. Turner and Co., engineer, for lifting both clerks and mails in the London General post-office. Here on a table lie specimens of the different bags employed; the vignettes for marking them; and even the Argand lamp used in the travelling post-offices. The packets are now supposed to be made up ready for transmission. First we see a remembrance of the past—a miniature model of the Liverpool Royal Mail and aperturances; then railway carriages shooting along a small tramway. Every one stops for a view of this miniature train. It is the travelling post-office. Everything is complete, even to the apparatus for dropping the bags and receiving others at different stations without stopping the train. The clerks alone are wanting, but complaisant agents explain to you all these details. What then is needed? Actually nothing, for there are glass plates with coloured inscriptions for being affixed to lamps which indicate the nearest post-office; others in white ware for placing near the letter boxes to give necessary information; charts showing the circulation of dispatches in the city of London; and a frame exhibiting a series of adhesives and envelopes.

On the left: the twopenny envelope dark-blue, on white, with threads. Two dated penny envelopes on white.

On the right: a dated penny envelope on bluish paper. A pair of penny envelopes with threads.

In the center: a sheet containing a score of the large lettered threepenny labels in five rows.

Below, to the left, in a line: 1p., black, florets at the angles; 1p., amaranth, same design; 2p., blue, perforated, with letters at each corner; 3p., carmine-pink, with small letters.

Underneath: a sheet bearing a score of large-lettered fourpennies in five rows, and a similar one of sixpennies.

In the centre: covers; the Mulready vignette, 2p. blue and 1p. black, with the usual postal regulations.

On the right: a range of 4p., 6p., 9p., and 1sh. adhesives, all with small letters.

Then a pair of sheets holding respectively twenty large lettered 9p. and 1sh. in 5 rows.

The whole breadth of the frame is taken up by a row of cut envelopes and embossed stamps of the following values: 1p., 2p., 3p., and undated 6p.; the 4d., 6d., and 1sh., and the undated shilling and tenpenny. The undated ones are the adhesives of 1842. The others are fragments of envelopes.

The frame is completed by four sheets of the following stamps in four ranks by five:

The 1p. black, 1p. amaranth, and 2p. blue, each with four letters, the 3p. and the three halfpenny adhesive. The 3p. alone is perforated. The four letters of the last did not strike us as being of the same size as those on the essay known.

We must add that all this material has been assembled by the care of Mr. Pearson Hill, which means that it has been formed with what may be termed paternal love, and with such attention as would be expected from the son of the celebrated promoter of postal reform in England.

We earnestly advise our readers to visit this corner of the English exhibition, which will give them a good idea of the organization of postal service; for the procedure in England and in France is pretty much alike.

Let us now return to the French part of the exhibition, following the course of the machinery. We first meet with the frames of two exhibitors, Class 59, between the *rues* of Alace and Normandy. One of them, M. Bordes, jun., 33 Rue d'Amsterdam, Paris, prints postage stamps by help of a cylinder. This he exhibits, bearing twenty impressions in a row. These are not disposed in continuous perpendicular lines, but alternately the center of one corresponding with the lines separating those above and below it (like bricks in a wall, as described by ourselves in last month's number). Worked off from this machine is a rouleau in appearance like those prepared for papering rooms, covered with stamps, whose number we should estimate at 6,400, bearing the emperor's effigy in black, blue and carmine, but without specified value. We say nothing respecting the engraving, which serves principally to show the mode of impression, and this must certainly considerably lessen the expense.

The other exhibitor, M. Chezaud, announces a patent taken in 1863, and an addition thereto in 1864, for printing stamps by means of a cylinder. His impressions are lineal, not alternating. There are several specimens of a blue stamp with the emperor's head, and sheets of the same in green. A third, likewise on a sheet, represents a cadu-

ceus in the center. All these have no specified value. The inventor announces that a million can be printed in an hour, which is certainly a surprising fact. With regard to the engraving, we can but repeat what we said before on the subject.

In the same machine gallery, M. Duloz, Class 95 exposes specimens of metal engraving and patterns of impressions executed by means of these engravings. He is the inventor of a procedure which is a wonderful combination of science applied to the art of engraving, reproducing an artist's design on copper, either in cameo or intaglio. From a plate made for *taille-douce* he forms a typographic die. This corner of the machine gallery is a branch of his workroom, where the plates are engraved and printed at the same time. All around figure the productions. In one frame are the Moldo-Wallachians, with Prince Couza's effigy, four blue, two orange, two carmine, and four violet. In the centre are four of the French empire stamps, blue, lilac, orange, and carmine. In a similar frame are the Ottoman labels. In a larger one, near the door, are the Ottomans, both postal and *chiffre-taxe*, in series of six, as well as the commercial labels of the same empire; then four sheets of Moldo-Wallachians, orange, violet, carmine and blue; then three rows of French commercials, blue, violet, and orange.

Leaving the machine department for the second gallery, we again see Moldo-Wallachians in the glass case of M. Stern, Class 8, 228. In the centre of a frame is the prince's photograph which served as a pattern for the engraver, and around it the 2 paras in ochre, blue, carmine, and violet, and the 5 paras in violet. Then follow a copperplate with 30 of the 5p. stamps, and some sheets impressed with the 5p. in vermilion, blue, carmine, and bistre. Below are the three steel dies of the 2, 5, and 20 paras. These stamps are simple as to composition, yet not devoid of elegance and gracefulness. It is not the designer's fault if the effigy they bear resembles a goodly *gendarme*. M. Duloz engraved these; but the revolution which broke out at Bucharest in the beginning of last year, overthrowing the prince's government, did not allow the emission of this series, which could but give the Roumanian population a high idea of French art.

M. Stern's exhibition contains, moreover, a 50 centime stamp for the Haitian Republic. When the restless citizens of this black republic shall think proper to gratify themselves with postage stamp, we hope they may apply to this engraver.

Not far off, in the same room, Class 90, 68, is a large tableau, reproducing all the types which have appeared in the *Magazin Pittoresque*. Then

M. Riester, Class 8, 297, among other ornamental engravings, exhibits his two essays for Egypt and Bolivia. M. Gasté, the lithographer's glass case, Class 6, 108, contains the same engraver's essay for San Marino.

In M. Poitevin's cases we again find the Ottoman stamps, for this engraver's exhibition is in two parts. In one are found entire sheets of the 10 paras, the 20 p. stamp and *chiffre-taxe*, the 1 piastre and the 2p. and a quarter of a sheet of 5 piastres. There are to be seen, moreover, the French commercial and telegraphic, of which we shall speak anon. On one side the glass case in two rows of eight stamps each, may be seen the 1p. pearl-grey, the 2p. blue, the 5p. red, and the 25p. orange, as well as the 10 paras green, the 20p orange-yellow, and the brown 25 piastre *chiffre-taxe*. The other case, in a neighbouring room, presents French *timbre de dimension*, erroneously termed stamps of value, worked off under M. Poitevin's directions in his stamp atelier. The values and colours are six, viz; 20 centimes, lilac-grey; 50c., bistre; 1 franc green; 1.50, brick; 2f., pale-blue; 3f., carmine. All these alike in design, depict the arms of the French empire on a shield, upon the imperial mantle, surmounted by a crown. There details are lost in the lines of the groundwork, and all effects destroyed for that reason. The impression is, moreover very defective. The same case contains the intended French telegram stamps. They are very similar in type to the old adhesive *dimension* labels; representing a crowned eagle holding a thunderbolt, within a coloured oval. At the upper angles are bees; at the lower is the value in figures. The word TIMBRE-TELEGRAMME, and the value come out in the oval, in white on colour. There are four values of them: 50 centimes, green; 25c., carmine; 2 francs, violet; 1f., ochre. The designer of the engraving is M. Oudiné, to whose art are due some remarkable medals and coins, among others those of the French Republic. We imagine these stamps have been modified on the primitive die, and multiplied by the method of M. Duloz.

[To be continued.]

Answers to Puzzles in Our Last.

13.—Le Timbrophile and the American Stamp Mercury.

14.—The Illustrated Postage Stamp Album and Catalogue by G. Banschke.

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

✉ LETTERS directed with lead-pencils are now sent to the Dead Letter Office.

✉ PRINCE MICHEL of Servia was assassinated while walking with his cousin and a lady some day last month. We would not call the attention of our readers to this, were it not to say that we doubt if one out of a thousand persons, besides stamps collectors, in this country, ever heard of this man's name, before it was made so public by his death. The same might be said of Heligoland, Orange Free State, and other countries which Timbrophily brings to our notice.

Answers to Correspondents.

F. A. D.—Montrose, Pa.—By the looks of things we should judge that all the values of United States stamps will be embossed.

J. F. S.—New York.—The Prussian official or special stamps are printed on gold beater's skin on the wrong side, therefore when once stuck on the paper they cannot be pulled off without spoiling the impression.

W. J. R.—Albany, N. Y.—Our object in having the initial of the last name of correspondents is this, letters directed to Post Offices are placed in pigeon holes according to said initial and if we write "A. B. Hodge," instead of "A. B. Dodge," it is very likely that the letter will never be delivered.

G. W. W.—Portsmouth, N. H.—1. Your enigma is not quite up to the standard. Try again. 2. Our publisher does not "swap" stamp for stamp. Send your duplicates and state the lowest price you want in cash and state what stamps you want for that amount.

G. F. H.—Montclair, N. J.—The statement of a dealer to you, saying that he *could* sell cheaper than any one else, is not true, for there are plenty European dealers and our own publisher that *can* and *does* undersell him.

We would also advise the same party to stop using his influence, if he has any, with our correspondents, for his statement to you that F. Trifet sells from 25 to 100 per cent in advance of cost is, to use a mild term, a lie. If nothing else can be done to stop this, we will give him the benefit of a free advertisement in our columns, name and all.

Received Since Our Last.

[In this column we will give our *honest and unrestrained* opinion of all and any Timbrophilic publication that may come to our notice, If it deserves it, we will praise it, if it does not, we will criticise it and hope their publishers will look on it in the same light, as we do and not expect "puffs" when they don't deserve it.]

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN POSTAGE STAMPS, BY F. TRIFET, Boston.—We have before us this well arranged and printed catalogue which is by far, the best thing ever published in America and equals, if it does not surpass any thing of the kind yet issued in Europe. We do not like to praise our own publisher's work, but "honor to whom honor is due" is our motto and therefor we can not let the occasion pass without giving the public at least a description of it.

As the name implies it is a complete catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to the latest moment of its going to press and the prices at which they can be had of the publisher. It is very correct and a novelty has been introduced in the manner of placing the date of issue, they being in a column instead of forming headings. The cuts, though not numerous, are beautifully engraved and the whole thing is gotten up in a style and manner that deserves the highest praises to the printer as well as compiler and publisher. Few mistakes are to be found, and those not material ones being only typographical; and last, though not least, the prices at which the stamps quoted are so low that many prominent dealers blame the publisher for putting them such. Quarterly supplements are to be issued, and bound with the catalogue, which will be sold for the same price, 15 cents.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

We have letters sent to the following addressees and returned to us as "not called for." The parties to whom they are addressed will please claim them within ninety days, or they will be destroyed.

W. E. Cushing, Cleveland, Ohio.
W. L. Rich, Yonkers, N. Y.
A. F. Stoll, Orange, N. J.
A. L. Selles, Westchester,—
O. Zabel, 255 N. 15th. St. Philadelphia, Pa.
H. Lawson, West Chester, N. Y.

Also a lot of stamps for a young lady in Hartford, who forgot to sign her name to the order.

THE PUBLISHER BEING DESIROUS OF completing his Philatelic Library is in want of the following Papers and Magazine.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS MONTHLY GAZETTE. All above No. 11.

THE POSTMANS KNOCK. Nos. 6 and 7.

THE STAMP COLLECTORS RECORD. Nos. 1 and 2 of Montreal Series.

THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL. Chicago, Illinois. Nos. 7, 9, 10.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP. Complete file.

THE LONDON AND NEW YORK STAMP COLLECTORS REVIEW. Both numbers.

THE STAMP JOURNAL. No. 1.

THE STAMP BUYER. File.

THE COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS MAGAZINE. Nos. 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10 to date inclusive.

THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE, Boston, Mass., Nos. 1 to 6, and above 8.

Also files of any Foreign publications excepting the S. C. Magazine, THE PHILATELIST, and LE TIMBROPHILE.

Persons having the above or any part of them, will please address, giving description, condition, and price.

F, TRIFET,

20 State St,

Boston, Mass.

CUTS OF NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

They are suitable for illustrated dealers lists, papers, envelopes &c. 18 different types are now ready. Price \$1.00 each. F. TRIFET,
20 State St. Boston, Mass.

FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS; beautifully colored; suitable for Hill's Album, 25 cts. Arms of all Nations, 25 cents.

F. TRIFET,

20 State Street, Room 9.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS CHEAP.

AUSTRIA, 2 kr. 5 cts., 3 kr. 6 cts., Newspaper stamp, 5 cts.; AUSTRIAN ITALY, 2 sld., 5 cts.; CANADA, 1-2 ct. 2 cts., 1 ct. 3 cts., 2 cts. 5 cts., 3 cts. 8 cts., the set of 7, 90 cts.; GERMANY, 1-4 s. gr. 5 cts., 1-3 s. gr. 6 cts., 1-2 s. gr. 8 cts.; HAMBURG, 1-2 sch. 6 cts.; MOLDO WALLACHIA, 2 bani, 6 cts., 4 bani 10 cts., 18 bani 35 cts.; SPAIN, 5 mill, 5 cts., 10 mill 8 cts.; SWITZERLAND 5 cent. env, 6 cts., 10 cent, env, 8 cts.; VENEZUELA 1-2 centavo, 8 cts., 1 centavo 10 cts.

All the above are unused and lately issued.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

CHEAP SETS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are unused.

Austria	20 Varieties	\$0.60
Austrian Italy	6 "	.20
Baden	10 "	.30
Bavaria, '51—62,	8 "	.20
Bavaria, '67,	4 "	.15
Belgium	6 "	.20
Bermuda,	4 "	.45
Brazil	5 "	.30
British Guiana,	4 "	.20
Brunswick	5 "	.25
*Canada 1851	6 "	6.00
" " '60-68	8 "	.15
* " " '68	7 "	.90
*Cape of Good Hope Sq.	4 "	1.25
Denmark	5 "	.15
*Egypt 1866	7 "	2.30
* " " 1837	6 "	2.00
*France	4 "	.12
" "	10 "	.18
Germany, North	10 "	.30
* " " " '68,	3 "	.20
Germany South	10 "	.30
* " " " '68,	3 "	.20
Great Britain	12 "	.30
Greece	7 Varieties	.30
*Hamburg Boten	116 "	.75
Hamburg,	4 "	.20
Hanover	6 "	.25
Holland,	5 "	.15
Hong Kong	19 "	.45
India	6* "	.25
*Ionian Islands	3 "	.50
Italy	10 "	.35
Jamaica	4 "	.25
Mecklenburg Schwerin	4 "	.25
Moldo Wallachia 1868,	3 "	.20
Natal	3 "	.15
* " embossed,	7 "	8.00
New South Wales	4 "	.20
New Zealand	4 "	.20
*Nicaragua	2 "	.40
Norway	4 "	.20
Oldenburg,	4 "	.18
Prussia	25 "	.75
* " "	5 "	.25
Queensland	3 "	.15
*Romagna	9 "	1.75
Roman States,	6 "	.30
Russia	4 "	.20
Salvador	4 "	.75
Saxony	12 "	.40
Schleswing Holstein	5 "	.25
*Sicily	7 "	1.75
*Servia	4 "	.30
Spain (all issues)	10 "	.50
* " " " "	6 "	.35
* " " July' 67,	4 "	.50
* " " Official, '54,	4 "	.40
* " " " '55,	4 "	.30
Straits Settlement	6 "	1.60
Sweden	5 "	.15
Switzerland	12 "	.35
* " envelopes	3 "	.30
Tasmania	4 "	.20
Trinidad	3 "	.18

*United States 1851	8	"	1.10
*N. Y. P. O.	5	"	2.50
*Wells, Fargo & Co.	11	"	2.00
Victoria	6	"	.25
Western Australia	4	"	.25
Wurtemberg	8	"	.25

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,
Boston, Mass.

Issued June 1868.

A New and Illustrated
DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST
AND
CATALOGUE
OF

American and Foreign
Postage Stamps,

For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps.

All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT. Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 15 cents, or 5 three cent stamps. A few copies will be interleaved with blank sheets to make notes, &c. Price, 25 cents.

Address
F. TRIFET, 20 State St.,
Boston, Mass.

WANTED! The following stamps in any quantity.

CANADA; $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. sterling, 10d., 12d. and envelopes.

NEW BRUNSWICK; 3d, 6d, 12d, 2 and 17 cents.

NEWFOUNDLAND; 4d, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1s SCARLET, and 12, 13, and 24 cents.

NOVA SCOTIA; 1, 3, 6, 12 pence, and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents.

Also all kinds of Hong Kong, India, Victoria, Mexico, Salvador, New Zealand, Tasmania, and other colonial and South American stamps.

Persons having such will please send them on for inspection with the lowest prices pr. piece, dozen or hundred.

F. TRIFET
20 State St. Boston, Mass.

UNITED STATES.

The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851 unused, . . . \$1.10,

Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, . . . 2.00,

N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, . . . 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

F. Trifet's July Announcements.

A New Illustrated Price Catalogue.

F. TRIFET'S NEW CATALOGUE PUBLISHED. June 1st, gives the description and value of every stamp issued from 1849 to June '68. It is illustrated with engravings of many new and rare stamps, and is the only complete catalogue published in America.

Price 15 cents. Intervened with blank pages for making notes, &c., 25 cents.

40 Varieties for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED stamps contains forty varieties, including Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, &c. All warranted genuine.

Cheap Italian Stamps.

ROMAGNA, SET OF NINE, \$1.75; SICILY, SET of seven, \$1.75; Naples set of eight, \$1.25. All unused and warranted genuine.

New Canada Stamps in Packets.

IN THE ONE DOLLAR PACKET OF UNUSED STAMPS there is a $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 3 cent stamp of the new issue of Canada, besides 35 other stamps. All warranted genuine.

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F. TRIFET'S TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED colonial stamps contains 18 varieties, including Barbadoes, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, &c.—All warranted genuine.

Cheap Sets of Unused Stamps.

EGYPT, 1866, set of seven, \$2.25. Egypt, 1867, set of six, \$2.00. Canada, 1861, set of six, \$6.00. Canada, 1868, set of seven, 90 cents. Ionian Islands, set of three, 60 cents. All unused and warranted genuine.

20 Used and Unused Stamps for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED AND Unused Stamps contains 20 varieties, including Greece, Brazil, Barbadoes, &c. All warranted genuine.

Hamburg Boten Stamps.

SETS OF 116, INCLUDING HAMER'S ADHESIVES & Envelopes, 2 sets of Hanouia, 4 of Scheerenbeck, 2 of Lafrentz, Krantz, &c., being the complete set for 75 cents. Warranted genuine.

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MULREADY ALBUM NO. 1. BROUGHT UP TO the present time, spaces being provided for all new issues, small oblong, cloth, post free, 90 cents. This is the best Album, for the money.

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ON RECEIPT OF 25 CTS., I WILL SEND PACKET number four, which contains 40 varieties of Confederate *Fac Similes*. They are well executed and cheap. A discount will be made on a dozen packets.

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NONPAREIL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, RULED to contain over 1100 stamps, with the description of current issue in English, French and German. Embossed cloth covers. Post free 55 cents!

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THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND-BOOK. — IT gives a description of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1867 compiled by the late C. M. Celtz. Postpaid, 25 cents.

The only Album containing Places for Revenues.

HILL'S BOSTON STAMP ALBUM, CONTAINS places for 3000 stamps, is divided into countries, each country having sufficient spaces for all past present and future issues. Printed in carmine ink, 10. cloth gilt sides, \$3.00; post free, \$3.25.

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LALLIER'S ALBUM, TRANSLATED INTO English from the seventh French edition. Contains a full description of all American and foreign stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. This is the most complete Album published. Imperial oblong, 8 vo., cloth, clasp, post free \$5.50; half turkey morocco, better paper, \$7.00.

15 unused stamps for 25 cents.

YOU CAN GET OF ME FIFTEEN UNUSED STAMPS for 25 cents, including Bavaria, Baden, Italy France &c. All warranted genuine.

The best thing to mount stamps.

ADHESIVE PAPER. BY TAKING A SMALL PIECE of this paper, and folding it in halves, you can firmly and neatly mount your stamps in your album by merely moistening it, and after fixing one half to the stamp, stick the other half unto the book. Price, per package of ten sheets, 15 cents and stamp.

Veni Vidi, Vici, Series of Packets.

NEW PACKET LIST ISSUED MAY 20TH. SEND one stamp for it. You will find on it many packets that cannot be equaled and *none* that can be beaten by any dealer in this Country. 540 have been sold since May 20th.

Confederate Stamps, Cheap.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FILL YOUR SETS. 1 CENT orange, \$2.50. 2 cents green, \$2.00. 5 cents green or blue, 60 cents. 10 cents blue, \$1.00. 10 cent rose \$2.00. Ten cents blue \$2.00. All the above are the old issue, very rare and cheap, also warranted genuine.

If you try other dealers and are not satisfied, try me.
ONLY ONE TRIAL IS SOLICITED AND IF NOT satisfactory, I am willing to return the money. This is an advantage that other dealers don't give you.

Cheaper than Ever.

UNITED STATES STAMPS, COMPLETE SET OF 1851 issue \$1.10. Set of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Stamps \$2.00. Set of N. Y. P. O. stamps, one stamp and four proofs, \$2.50. All unused and warranted genuine.

60 used and unused Stamps for 75 cents.

NEW PACKET NO. 25, CONTAINS 60 USED AND unused stamps. This packet is one of the cheapest of the list, contains no duplicates and all the stamps are genuine.

Well mixed European Stamps.

CONTINENTALS IN LARGE OR SMALL LOTS. 100 for 25 cents, 500 \$1.15. Better quality 100 for 50 cents; 500 \$2.00.

Wood cuts of newly issued Stamps.

ENGRAVINGS OF NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS These are electrotypes of well executed cuts and are suitable to illustrate dealer's lists, circulars, &c. 18 varieties now ready, price \$1.00 each, or \$16.00 for the set.

Extraordinary Success.

MAY 20TH. I ISSUED MY NEW PACKET LIST called "the Vini, Vidi, Vici, series" and am most thankful for the number of them that have been ordered. No better advertisement of these popular packets can be made than to state that 540 have been sold since they were first issued, May 20th to June 30th.

The American Stamp Mercury.

ENTERTAINING READING FOR STAMP COL- lectors as well as others. The best Stamp Paper in America. Is always quoted as the authority. Subscription only 50 cents per year. Examine this number and if you are not a subscriber you will soon be. Back numbers supplied.

Flags and Arms of all nations.

NICELY EXECUTED AND SUITABLE FOR HILL'S or any other album, two sheets, being over 75 flags and arms. 25 cents each.

175 Stamps for \$3.00

THE THREE DOLLAR PACKET OF USED AND unused stamps contains 175 varieties including Holland, Western Australia, Hamburg 1868, also Germany, Wurtemberg Parma, new Canada, Turk's Isand, Sardinia &c. All warranted genuine.

Wanted to Buy

STAMPS OF ALL KINDS, PARTICULARLY THE first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Colonial stamps of all kinds, no matter how common or rare, and all other stamps. Also collections.

For any of the above address F. TRIFET, 20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, AUGUST, 1868.

No. X.

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

TERMS:-

Single Copies,	-	-	-	\$.10
One Copy to One Address, One year,				.50
Three Copies, " " " " "				1.25
Five " " " " "				2.00
Eight " " " " "				3.00

PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

The postage, 12 cents a year, must be paid at the office where the paper is received.

ALL THE BACK NUMBERS CAN BE HAD.

No Advertisements Received.

Address all communications as follows:

AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY,

Box 444, Boston, Mass.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

BOLIVIA.—We present our readers with a cut of

the Newly Issued 10 centavos

stamp for this Republic. As

our readers will perceive, it is

a beautiful design and is but a

fit pendant to the Peru, Costa

Rica, and other stamps en-

graved by the American Bank

Note Company.



NORWAY.—The series is now complete by the addition of a 3 skilling stamp, lilac.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The stamps issued to the officials are now stamped with the initials of the department in which they are used and to such collectors as make a difference between the *convict's* and *honest people's* stamps of West Australia afford a large addition to their collection as there are some forty varieties.

ECUADOR.—The 12 reales stamp noticed in our



last was issued early in the year.

The set of Ecuador stamps now consist of five stamps, viz:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1-2 real blue, | 1 real green, |
| 1 " bistre, | 4 " rose, |
| 12 reales, rose. | |

The first three and the last is of the same design as the cut above.

Our "Local" Stamps.

BY S. A. T.

The term Local however indefinite has finally become the term by which all Postage stamps of a non official character are indicated, but more particularly has the term local been used to designate the thousand and one issues of the Expresses, Express Posts, Private Post-offices and delivery Companies of the United States.

Much has been written and rewritten and surmised and misstated by our British and Foreign contemporaries in relation to this peculiar feature of American Institution and it says but little for their apt comprehension that we noted a month or two since that the business Envelope of the recently organized Merchants Union Express Co. was gravely catalogued as an undoubted "Local."

The foreign Journals have also frequently given valuable information about how the Government abolished the "Local" Institution; how Wells, Far-

go's Stamps were of a semi-official character, in what years such and such stamps were issued usually winding up with the information that whatever may have been long ago of a surety, locals existed no more, as the "Government had abolished them."

Of course the readers of those Journals would never dream of questioning the statements made therein, to do so would be a heresy of the deepest dye, deserving the fate of being obliged to own a collection lacking a light yellowish-brown-grey, South Australia, or a 9x14 perforated Belgium; for further particulars regarding which see a late number of one of the Periodicals aforesaid. But regarding locals we propose to give a full, perfect and authentic account of the various classes of Locals as they appear at the present time reserving an account of their mode of operation for future treatment.

The Local Stamps of the United States may be classified as consisting of Seven different kinds.

1st. Original impressions which are very scarce.

2d. Reprints of the originals which are common and between which and the originals it is at all times difficult to discriminate from the fact of their being in one sense identically the same, and the absence of authentic proof that no *originals* existed in the many different shades of paper and colors of ink in which the admitted reprints are commonly found.

3d. Fac-similes of the originals between which and the originals it is difficult to discriminate the designs being mostly simple and easy of imitation.

4th. Mythical stamps or designs originated by inventive genie both in Europe and America, but which never had any existence save in the fertile imagination of the parties who concocted them, but which being usually neat designs have in great measure been accepted as genuine stamps.

5th. The Business envelopes and labels of several of the existing express companies which while being certainly attached to parcels in envelopes or otherwise never had any meaning as a frank or for purpose of prepaying any parcel or other article but which through misapprehension have been classified as locals.

6th. Stamps of many various devices, styles and colors issued by real bona fide existing Express Posts (not Expresses) for purpose of sale to collectors but which if attached to a letter for transmission by their present institution would be regarded as worthless for purposes of prepayment.

7th. Under this head may be mentioned the Sanitary Fair Stamps for which the sum indicated

on their face was charged, but which the recipient of the letter was again called upon to pay, the letters being ready written to order by the Young Lady P. O. officials, and the College Stamps both Postal and Revenue, for which 2 per cent is charged to the student but which sum, of which he must keep account, is refunded to him when leaving the college, a College P. O. being deemed essential in the students business correspondence with some student at another desk in the same room.

Having thus classified these stamps as they are to be found, the true genuine original stamps may be divided into four classes, viz: stamps which were used to convey letter, from one city to another such as Hale & Co. (which was issued in 1842 upon the personal authority of Mr. Hale himself). Stamps used for the delivery of letters from one section of a city to another such as Boyd's City Post, Russell's, 8th avenue P. O., Hourly Express Post, &c.

Private Post Offices which for a given sum delivered your letter to the General P. O. and kept your letter if addressed to its care in safety for you, by which means time was saved and annoyance avoided, of which the Broadway P. O., Union Square P. O., Cornwell's Madison Square P. O. and others form examples.

Delivery Offices which keep messengers constantly on hand for the delivery of letters or small parcels of which the establishment of M. Hussey in N. Y. is about the only one in existence and which still continues in a flourishing condition despite the "competition" of the P. O. department.

As a proof that locals are not abolished it might be mentioned that in the city of N. Y., not only Mr. Hussey's institution but Boyd's City Post, Chatham Square Letter Office, Broadway Letter Office and Union Square Letter Office are still in existence. There is also another firm, the name of which has escaped our memory but which issues no labels, a hand stamp impression being the only stamp used.

Some years since the government undertook to abolish Mr Boyd by authority of the act of March 1851 which declared the streets of cities postal routes, but Mr. Boyd had taken the precaution to take out a license from the city of N. Y. as a common carrier and upon trial the wily lawyers claimed that a common carier could carry anything letter or not and an attested copy of the charter of the city of N. Y., granted by some of the Georges but still valid, was produced in court by which it was shown that the city had the power to grant licenses and that until Congress abrogates the charter, the

city would continue to grant licenses and take the fees therefor regardless of the wishes of Congress so long as it was deemed to be the interest of the city. To abolish Mr. Boyd, it would therefor have been necessary to abrogate the time honored charter of the city, before which task Congress quailed and the result was that Mr. Boyd still continues in the Express Post business.

[To be continued.]

REVIEW OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF DR. MAGNUS,

Extracted from the Philatelist.

[continued from page 56.]

We now come to the principal part of the French exhibition, as far as regards postage stamps, namely, that containing the work of Messrs. Barre and Hulot.

According to catalogue, Class 8, 12, M. Barre, Paris, exhibits "dies and proofs of coins and medals, specimens of typographic engraving on steel, and types and proofs of postage and other stamps." By some inexplicable means, our researches, assisted by the custodians, have failed to discover the case containing them. This we much regret, as we should have been delighted to enumerate in details all the parts of M. Barre's exhibition. His works however, comprising as they do the French and Greek stamps, are well known to amateurs.

As far as regards the former, M. Hulot, Class 6, 11, Paris, fills up the void. This gentleman is known as the author of means for multiplying engraved types by *galvanoplastie*. He it is who, with wonderful vigour, as related by M. Louis Figuier in the *Annuaire Scientifique* of 1855, managed in three months to get together all materials, fabricate the plate print off the postage stamps, and supply all the offices and the Central Postal Administration, a fortnight before the law authorising the remission of those stamps came into vigour. As a specimen of his labour in 1848, he exposes a sheet of the 25 centimes black. This is, in some respect, the point of departure for showing the progress made since that time. M. Hulot has devoted himself to researches on the employment of delible inks in typography, and the frame contains his works with different colours, both fixed and fugitive. He exposes supplementary fragments of sheets of the 25c. of the Empire, green, orange-yellow, deep-carmine, and bistre, in rows five by ten; then four

sheets, ten by fifteen, of the 25c. bistre, light-blue, rose-violet, and deep-blue.

Then comes a sheet of commercial stamps typographed in fugitive ink, black and grey, before the addition of the value; a large stain in form of a bar shows the alteration produced by water on these stamps. The sheet at its side shows the value added in red, 100 fr. and under. These are specimens of the adhesive commercials actually in use in France.

Another frame contains the half-dozen stamps of our colonies, in sheets containing eighteen rows of ten stamps each. The colors are those in use for each value. Then follow sheets of fifteen rows, ten in a row; the 4c. brown and olive-green; a row of 4c. normal colour; two sheets of the new 30c., with the laurel-crowned effigy of the emperor, in deep-blue and chestnut; a row of the 4c., light-green; and four rows of the 30c., light-brown, carmine, orange, and light-violet.

The exhibition is completed by the copper plates of the 20c. and 25c. Empire, the 25c. and 10c. Republic, the 10c. Colonies, and the commercials, with plates for cards and bank notes. The 25c. Empire plate is double; composed of the one obtained by the reunion of a suitable number of galvanic dies on the steel; the other which serves for printing off the stamps, is obtained from a single piece by the metallic deposit on the surface of the former, on which both inscription and portrait are in relief as in the stamps themselves; this arises from all the sunk part of the steel die being reproduce in relief, and *vice versa*.

In our opinion this exhibition testifies all the superiority of the French stamp. The work of M. Barre is truly one of art. His head of the Republic has that veritable Greek profile so pure and regular on the ancient statues; than *tout ensemble* so harmonious and so remarkable in its simplicity. In this instance the obligatory framework does not distract attention by misplaced florets and ornaments. The same qualities are observable in the Emperor's head stamps, but here of course the engraver was obliged to conform to his model, and not give way to inspiration. The sole fault we find in the French stamps is the small size of the figures indicative of value. This circumstance had struck the proper parties as we see the 2c. and 4c. laurelled head appear with two large figures; the framework was moreover, changed; but this modification has not been generalised; neither will it be, for we find by an article that appeared in the *Evenement* a few months since that the forthcoming 1c. and 5c. laurelled, will alone partake of this variation; the original frame and small figures

being continued for the other values : this is evidenced by the appearance of the new 20c. and 30c.

The above-mentioned articles should be read for appreciating in detail all M. Hulot's labours, and seeing that no single particular in the fabrication of postage stamps has not been made subject for invention and improvement. He has rendered signal service to his country, not only by the galvanoplastic multiplication of the types so cleverly produced by the *burin* of M. Barre, but by inventing safety inks, and by his researches after colours not easily destructible by chemical attempts at washing out the obliterations. The very perforating machine even has been perfected by the substitution of aluminium bronze needles in lieu of steel ones.

We fear not therefore, to affirm that French stamps are the most difficult of all to counterfeit or clean for re-use, and that M. Hulot demands our country's recognition for these advantages.

We had thought our examination of the postage stamps of the various countries concluded ; but a visit to the first floor of the central pavilion, where coins, weights, and measures are exhibited, showed us some under another phase. On the slightest examination, it is evident that the Commission chose to present the weights, measures, and coins of every country before the visitors' eyes : and that postage stamps were considered, equally with bank notes, as falling under the denomination of paper money.

Even should this assimilation be discussable, the propriety of forming this collection seems to us indubitable. We must perforce add, however, that the execution of the idea is very badly carried out with regard to the greater number of countries, beginning with our own. The stamps of Hawaii and Victoria ought to have been here. The following *resume* will show whether we are right :—

France presents specimens of various bank notes only, being incompletely represented, according to the above idea ; though M. Hulot's glass case amply supplies the vacuum.

The Netherlands exhibit impressions of all sorts of commercial stamps, bank notes, and the current 5, 10, and 15 cents in the usual colours ; also the 10c. colonial, carmine-red and blue. [A description of the new issue already chronicled in our pages follows.]

Belgium is represented by bank notes, its current issue and telegraph stamps ; but no commercials of any sort.

Prussia shows postals, commercials, stamped envelopes, and bank notes. The postage stamps and envelopes are the 1861 series.

Bavaria exposes bank notes, and its recent imis-

sion is represented for each value by ten stamps in two rows.

As for Wurtemberg, the whole exhibition is made up by an essay sheet containing the five current stamps in their actual colours ; the four stamped envelopes, 1, 3, 6, and 9 kreuzer ; and those for money orders, 4, 6, 7, and 9 kreuzer.

Switzerland gives visitors its current set of adhesives and the newly-emitted 10c. envelope.

Spain, so rich in postal issues, has not thought fit to exhibit anything but a few bank notes.

Portugal is totally unrepresented. We must, however, supply an omission in our former article.

Among the objects exhibited by the Royal Lisbon Printing Press, is a copper-plate containing nine stamps by six, King's effigy, SELLO 40 REIS. They are probably commercials.

Italy has succeeded even better than Prussia and the Netherlands in giving information of the stamps she employs. They are impressed on glazed cardboard. First come the passport, legalization, and postage stamps of 1863 ; then the former substituted by means of a hand-stamp, like the 15 centimes of mournful memory. Also the following revenue stamps, a list of which we give, because several of them are so frequently offered to amateurs for purchase.

[To be continued.]

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

THE ENGRAVING AND PRINTING BUREAU of the Treasury Department manufactured \$20, 265,000 worth of beer stamps and \$7,780,000 worth of cigar stamps during the last calendar year.

AN ADOPTED CITIZEN of Cincinnati recently mailed a letter with this direction :—"Fote Aushot (Fort Ancient)' to William Gols to come as quick as you can asit got to fort Ansont ; and to send it as quick as possible and his sister Grances wand (wants) to see him."

STRANGE LETTER CARRIER. — Advices from Odessa state that an Italian brig, the San Gennaro, was becalmed on the voyage from Naples to Odessa, and fishing was resorted to in order to kill time. Soon a magnificent swordfish was caught, measuring over all some 15 feet in length. What was the astonishment of the fishermen, on opening the fish, to find a box ornamented with the crescent and stars, on which was painted in French, "*poste locale*." On examination it proved

to be a Constantinople district letter box, containing about thirty letters.

HAMBURG STAMP FORGERIES.—Everybody, perhaps, is not acquainted with the etymology of the word humbug. It is a corruption of Hamburg, and originated in the following manner.—During a period when war prevailed on the continent, so many false reports and lying bulletins were fabricated at Hamburg, that, at length, when any one would signify his disbelief of a statement he would say, "You had that from Hamburg," and thus, "That is from Hamburg," or "Humbug," became a common expression of incredulity. The city seems inclined to keep up this equivocal reputation. Thousands of forgeries, under the specious *alias* of *fac-similes*, and fictitious stamps under that of *essays*, are hurried off by the trains, or wafted by the vessels bearing the wines, and other, we hope genuine merchandize of that thriving and very handsome emporium. When in Hamburg last year, one of the principal concoctors of the impositions alluded to, unblushingly assured us the traffic in them answered his purpose exceedingly well, adding that he had a very large sale of them both in Germany and the United States. We should have thought our transatlantic cousins too wide awake, and the Germans too wary, to be taken in; but there can be no sales without buyers, whom the *middlemen* victimize. For the true interest of philately, it is a grievous fact that the disreputable class of forgery-retailers are so rife. The partial decadence of the interesting and instructive pursuit in question, both at home and on the continent, is mainly attributable to the dishonest cupidity of certain vendors, who deal so largely in fictions and falcities. These gentlemen may be assured they will themselves be the losers in the long run; for even the juvenile collectors are beginning to open their eyes to the palpable rubbish offered them; and, becoming disgusted, will eventually seek some other pastime for leisure hours.—*Routledge's Magazine for Boys*.

Answers to Correspondents.

S. G. N. Orange, N. J.—Number 4 of the *MERCURY* was issued January 25th. and number 5 March 2d. therefore there was no number dated February.

N. W. P. Providence, R. I.—1. The Bergen

By Post is not a government stamp. 2. The Ceylon 10d without value in upper corners is a counterfeit of the one with it. 3. The one *grote Bre-men* stamps are both of them revenues. 4. The *Corrientes* stamps were issued for the state of that name in the Argentine Confederation and were never used in Cuba.

F. A. D. Montrose, Pa.—The Java stamp is in our publisher's list; it is under "Dutch Indies".

Received Since Our Last.

[In this column we will give our *honest* and *unrestrained* opinion of all and any Timbrophilic publication that may come to our notice, If it deserves it, we will praise it, if it does not, we will criticise it and hope their publishers will look upon it in the same light, as we do, and will not expect "puffs" when they don't deserve it.]

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

We have letters sent to the following addresses and returned to us as "not called for." The parties to whom they are addressed will please claim them within ninety days, or they will be destroyed.

W. E. Cushing, Cleveland, Ohio.

W. L. Rich, Yonkers, N. Y.

A. L. Selles, Westchester,—

O. Zabel, 255 N. 15th. St. Philadelphia, Pa.

H. Lawson, West Chester, N. Y.

C. B. Cook, Castile, N. Y.

H. W. Winfield, Jersey City, N. J. 2

E. Hitchcock, Springfield, Mass.

Also a lot of stamps for a young lady in Hartford, who forgot to sign her name to the order.

—The bids for engraving and printing the postage stamps required for the use of the Post Office Department, were opened by the Postmaster-general on Thursday. George T. Jones of Washington bid 18c., 21c. and 25c. per 1000; Butler & Carpenter of Philadelphia bid 22c., 25c. and 30c. per 1000; the National Bank Note Company, New York, bid 25½c., 26½c. and 28½c. per 1000, M. Jones' proposal is to supply a stamp that cannot be cleansed nor counterfeited. As his bid is the lowest he will probably receive the contract.

—A Russian has invented an ingenious piece of mechanism which, when a person places a letter in the postal boxes, a receipt dated and signed, is returned.

LIST OF UNITED STATES Revenue Stamps,

In Stock and for Sale by

F. TRIFET.

Device.	Facial Value.	Selling Price.
Agreement,	5 cents,	\$.02
Bank Check,	2 " blue or orange, .....	.01
Bill of Lading,	10 " .....	.01
Bond,	25 " .....	.03
Certificate,	2 " blue, .....	.03
"	5 " .....	.01
"	10 " .....	.01
"	25 " .....	.01
Charter Party,	3 dollars, .....	.08
"	5 " .....	.06
"	10 " .....	.20
Contract	10 cents, .....	.01
Conveyance,	50 " .....	.02
"	1 dollar, .....	.05
"	2 " .....	.05
Entry of Goods,	25 cents, .....	.03
Express,	1 " .....	.01
"	2 " blue or orange, .....	.03
"	5 " .....	.01
Foreign Exchange,	3 " .....	.01
"	5 " .....	.02
"	15 " .....	.03
"	20 " .....	.05
"	70 " .....	.03
"	1 dollar, .....	.04
Inland Exchange,	4 cents, .....	.01
"	5 " .....	.01
"	6 " .....	.02
"	10 " .....	.01
"	15 " .....	.01
"	20 " .....	.01
"	30 " .....	.02
"	40 " .....	.02
"	60 " .....	.02
"	1 dollar, .....	.03
"	1 " 50 cents, .....	.05
"	2 " 50 " .....	.04
"	3 " 50 " .....	.15
Insurance,	25 cents, .....	.02
Lease,	1 dollar, .....	.03
Life Insurance,	25 cents, .....	.03
"	50 " .....	.05
Manifest,	1 dollar, .....	.05
"	3 " .....	.10
"	5 " .....	.08
Mortgage,	50 cents, .....	.02
"	2 dollars, .....	.06
"	5 " .....	.08
"	15 " .....	.75
Original Process,	50 cents, .....	.02
Passage Ticket,	50 " .....	.06
Playing Cards,	1 " .....	.02
"	2 " blue, .....	.05
Power of Attorney,	10 " .....	.03
"	25 " .....	.02
"	1 dollar, .....	.03
Probate of Will,	1 " .....	.06
"	5 " .....	.08
"	10 " .....	.20

Device.	Facial Value.	Selling Price
Proprietary,	1 cent, .....	.01
"	2 " blue, .....	.01
"	3 " .....	.02
"	4 " .....	.01
"	5 " .....	.03
Surety Bond,	50 "02
Telegraph,	1 "02
"	3 "02
U. S. Int. Rev.,	2 "01
Warehouse Receipt,	25 "05

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THE STAMP COLLECTORS RECORD. Nos. 1 and 2 of Montreal Series.

THE COIN AND STAMP JOURNAL. Chicago, Illinois. Nos. 7, 9, 10.

THE CURIOSITY SHOP. Complete file.

THE LONDON AND NEW YORK STAMP COLLECTORS REVIEW. Both numbers.

THE STAMP JOURNAL. No. 1.

THE STAMP BUYER. File.

THE COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS MAGAZINE. Nos. 1 to 4, 6, 7, 10 to date inclusive.

THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE, Boston, Mass., Nos. 1 to 6, and above 8.

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Bermuda,	4 "	.45
Brazil	5 "	.30
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Brunswick	5 "	.25
*Canada 1851	6 "	6.00
" " '60-68	8 "	.15
" " '68	7 "	.90
*Cape of Good Hope Sq.	4 "	1.25
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*France	4 "	.12
" "	10 "	.18
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" " " '68,	3 "	.20
Germany South	10 "	.30
" " " '68,	3 "	.20
Great Britain	12 "	.30
Greece	7 Varieties	.30
*Hamburg Boten	116 "	.75
Hamburg,	4 "	.20
Hanover	6 "	.25
Holland,	5 "	.15
Hong Kong	10 "	.45
India	6 "	.25
*Ionian Islands	3 "	.50
Italy	10 "	.35
Jamaica	4 "	.25
Mecklenburg Schwerin	4 "	.25
Moldo Wallachia 1868,	3 "	.20
Natal	3 "	.15
" " embossed,	7 "	8.00
New South Wales	4 "	.20
New Zealand	4 "	.20
*Nicaragua	2 "	.40
Norway	4 "	.20
Oldenburg,	4 "	.18
Prussia	25 "	.75
" "	5 "	.25
Queensland	3 "	.15
*Romagna	9 "	1.75
Roman States,	6 "	.30
Russia	4 "	.20
Salvador	3 "	.60
Saxony	12 "	.40
Schleswing Holstein	5 "	.25
*Sicily	7 "	1.75
*Servia	7 "	.80
Spain (all issues)	10 "	.50
" " " "	6 "	.35
" " July '67,	4 "	.50
" " Official, '54,	4 "	.40
" " " '55,	4 "	.30
Straits Settlement	6 "	1.00
Sweden	5 "	.15
Switzerland	12 "	.35
" " envelopes	3 "	.30
Tasmania	4 "	.20
Trinidad	3 "	.18

*United States 1851	8 "	1.10
*N. Y. P. O.	5 "	2.50
*Wells, Fargo & Co.	11 "	2.00
Victoria	6 "	.25
Western Australia	4 "	.25
Wurtemberg	8 "	.25

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,

Boston, Mass.

Issued June 1868.

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DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST

AND

CATALOGUE

OF

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The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, SEPTEMBER, 1868.

No. XI

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,

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NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

The number of Stamps being issued now by the different governments is growing smaller and beautifully less every month, and from prospects we believe that there will not be any thing at all under this heading next month.

For this month we have,

SAXONY.—Another set of Express stamps, being the same as the last in design. The values are:

1-4 gro. green	1 gro. rose
1-3 " lilac	2 " blue
1-2 " orange	5 " brown

There is a set of envelopes to match, only varying a little in the design.

HOLLAND.—The 15 cents stamps has been issued. The 1 is not out yet.

VICTORIA.—The five shilling Stamp figured in number seven, is now printed in blue on white paper, with the exception of the crown and inscription VICTORIA, FIVE SHILLINGS, which is in vermilion. This gives it a very handsome appearance.

FINDLAND HELSINGFORS.—The local stamps for Helsingfors is now printed in brown with blue bar instead of green and red bar as formerly.

MEXICO.—*Le Timbrophile* announce an addition to the Guadalahara series in the form of a 1 peso stamp, dull rose, perforated and unperforated.

INDIA.—By the last mails we have a new 8 anna stamp. More in our next.

ON THE NEWFOUNDLAND STAMPS.

BY THE EDITOR.

We have been kindly favoured by Mr. James M. Chute of Boston for some notes on these Stamps, and as we don't believe they have ever been published, we here give them for the benefit of our readers.

In 1856 the Provincial Government authorized Mr. W. L. Solomon, the then Post Master General, to have prepared a series of Postage Stamps. The contract for their manufacture was awarded by Mr. Solomon to Mr. L. Stanford, London, who prepared nine values, viz:



1d. and 5 d. square, 2d., 4d., 6d., 6½d., 8d., and 1s. rectangular and 3d. triangular. Proofs of all the values were struck from the original, or mother, dye in black on fine india paper and sent to the authorities for their inspection and approval.

They were accepted and the plates were impressed as follows:

1d. plate	contained	120 imp.	in a deep lake colour
2d. " "	"	120 "	orange and vermilion
3d. " "	"	80 "	green
4d. " "	"	80 "	orange and vermilion
5d. " "	"	40 "	red-brown, and lake
6d. " "	"	40 "	orange and vermilion
6½d. " "	"	20 "	vermilion
8d. " "	"	20 "	"
1s. " "	"	20 "	"

None are watermarked or perforated, and the colors change to a red-brown tint when exposed to the action of the air.

The first order consisted of 171,000 stamps which was shipped to the colony and issued to the public January 1st, 1857. The total cost of the plates, printing, &c. amounted to £398, 8s. 9d., which was paid by the colony.

This lot having been exhausted excepting the 8d. stamp, another order of 222,380 stamps were struck off September 1862, and issued January 1st 1863, the colour of the 2d., 4d., 6d., 6½d., and 1s. being changed from scarlet to lake.

In 1865 the Hon. John Delaney, P. M. G. ordered



a new series of stamps to be emitted with the value in cents owing to a change in the currency. They were engraved by the American Bank Note Company, N. Y., and consist of the following

values.

- 2 cents oblong, codfish in center, green,
- 5 " " seal in center, brown,
- 10 " rect. Prince of Wales in center, black,
- 12 " " Victoria in center, red-brown,
- 13 " oblong, ship in center, orange,
- 24 " rect. Victoria in center deep blue.

The cost of these plates was \$600, and for the printing, gumming, and perforating, 25 cents per sheet of one hundred, being a total cost of \$2100. for the 600,000 stamps that were printed. Of this number, 200,000 had been sold up to May 1868, leaving 400,000 to be disposed of, very likely, before a new set will grace our Newfoundland page of our album.

We are obliged to Mr. Chute for these particulars, and if any of our readers can give us any more information in regard to these stamps of which so little has been said or written, we will be thankful.

Our "Local" Stamps.

BY S. A. T.

[Continued from Page 71.]

Referring now to the stamps of Wells, Fargo & Co. which have been stated to be of official origin or otherwise recognized by government.

There is no plausible foundation for any such statement. The Pony Express stamps were used to prepay letters from the principal office of Wells, Fargo & Co. in the city of San Francisco to the then more remote settlements of the state where no mail arrangements had at that time been perfected.

They were never used to convey letters across the continent either to or from the eastern states, the well known oblong design figured in one of our British cotemporaries a year or so since being used for that purpose.

The entire Pony Express series are now obsolete the march of progress by the P. O. Department having caused them to be withdrawn.

It is true that Wells, Fargo & Co. have or very lately had a contract with the U. S. Government for the transportation of the public mails to and from California by the overland route, but that contract had nothing whatever to do with the Pony Express, and no Pony Express stamp or any other kind of stamps except those emitted by the government were ever attached to letters so forwarded. Wells, Fargo & Co., and sundry other firms in California do still, to some extent deliver letters, newspapers and parcels through certain sections of California where there is no efficient mail service but they need no government permission to do so.

It might be as well to state in this connection that the Pony Express Stamps are to be had at a tolerably reasonable figure, a New York stamp dealer having secured the steel plates of the entire series from which "reprints or originals" (both terms are perfectly admissible) are printed in all the colours of the rainbow and which could, no doubt, be printed in any fancyful color or on any color of paper which even the fastidious taste of a collector of the French school could desire—gum of different colours could even be applied in an emergency and a pinking iron could "provisionally" be pressed into the service as a perforator to those who delight in "perforations" the smell of them could be pleasingly diversified by the aid of Eau de Davelle or for the more recherche Otto of Roses could be substituted, or for the sake of rarity Tincture Assafetida would furnish a cheap

and lasting perfume and even the peculiar and somewhat powerful emanation of a certain lively and odoriferous quadruped known to American sportsman, (but whose name we don't remember just now), could even be made to do duty on a pinch.

It is true that the perfumes of the two latter subjects are not those of Araby the blest, but then they would be rare, the latter one especially, and we trust our friends of the French school will be devoutly grateful for the new field which our humble remarks cannot fail to have opened up to their notice, and in which field when they at last rest from their labors, if not their work, their smell at least shall follow them.

[To be continued.]

REVIEW OF THE POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE FRENCH EXHIBITION.

TRANSLATED BY PERMISSION FROM DR. MAGNUS'
ARTICLE IN "LE TIMBROPHILE."

Extracted from the Philatelist.

[Continued from page 72.]

Blue: 50 centesimi; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 lire.
Lilac: 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 lire.
Carmine: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600, 700, 800,
900 lire,
Green: 1,000 and 5,000 lire.

The adhesives for the Venetian provinces follow. There type was given in the 50th number of the *Timbre Poste*. [Our readers will find them described and figured in the last number of this magazine.]

Then come the 1862 commercials, with their value increased by means of a hand stamp. The exhibition is completed by the current set of nine postals, 2 lire, 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 60 centesimi, perforated, and on paper. Important as this array is, it is not complete; no stamped slips or sheets of paper being exposed.

Turkey is represented by M. Poitevin's well-known sheet, comprehending postals, chiffré-taxé stamps, and commercials.

Some United States bank notes close the exposition, to which England and her colonies, it will be remarked, lend none of their considerable store, which must be sought for in the types exhibited by M. De la Rue.

It is to be regretted that the idea of the Commission has been ill-comprehended, or at least, executed; for, according to our point of view, the study of the represented series could not but rouse the taste of the stamp-collector, howbeit the ab-

sence of extinct sets would have deprived visitors of a study as curious in its kind as that of the component parts of the retrospective museum.

We ought not to leave the exhibition without signaling to visitors a wonderful opportunity of turning over one of the principal French collections.

[The learned doctor proceeds to dilate upon the circumstance that the exquisite collection of M. de S., to which our reader will observe he alludes in the article at page 149 of this volume, is seldom, if ever, permitted to fulfil the ends of its presence in the exhibition; the *backs* of the volumes containing it being alone given to view by the party to whom their contents are entrusted for inspection. His observations are suppressed by the editor of *Le Timbrophile*, to avoid any suspicion of unfair dealing or petty jealousy on a fellow-caterer for philatelic patronage. Though we have ourselves, some time back, been favoured by the owner of this superb collection with private views thereof, we should have much liked another inspection; but, perfectly aware of the uncourteous character of the acting exhibitor, did not expose ourselves to the indignity of a refusal. Dr. M. proceeds with an account as complete as he was allowed to make of the interesting and magnificent collection in question.]

It is in eight volumes, or rather boxes imitative of them. The sheets contained therein are removable by means of attached ribbons, in close accordance with the system of M. Phares. The stamps are placed in sets on sheets ornamented in a rather puerile style; but this is unimportant to our subject. A worse fault is, that they are so affixed to the sheet as to be irremovable for examination (of watermark, &c.) On the same sheet are found unused and cancelled specimens, with essays mixed with reprints more or less fanciful. A certain number of amateurs form a double collection, new and obliterated; we cannot ourselves comprehend the utility of preserving a post-marked stamp of every species, which serves but to show such and such type has been in use. This would be advisable in the case of a very few doubtful instances only. We could understand the collection of all sorts of obliterations in all species and varieties of stamps. Such a labour would allow the completion in a few moments of researches which at present take up much time; but, besides the unlikelihood of ever possessing all the different methods of obliteration employed for each stamp, the number of specimens collected must be set at 50 or 60,000, and this considerable assemblage would be unsatisfactory to the eye. On

the contrary, where would be the utility, perhaps, for a history of stamps, of the obliteration of one set by a cancelling mark in use at another epoch? This anachronism met with continually in this collection, may tend to mislead future amateurs.

With these reservations, let us signalize some interesting points. In Sweden is seen a group of the 4 skillings blue, new and unperforated; but these stamps never served in that state. In Finland is the 20 kopecks, PORTO STEMPER, 2nd type, on thick yellowish paper unalaid, we think, for we dare not be positive, from inability to renew our examination, and above all, to hold it up to the light. We have vainly sought for such a specimen in several collections. Here are likewise the Finland reprints, 1st and 2nd emission on plain paper, and in sheets containing several rows of inverted impressions. But side by side with these stamps we see with regret figuring the Hamburg counterfeits of the 1st emission, noted in our article on Finland * * *

Not allowed to continue our examination, we must manage to do without. All amateurs get their specimens from two sources: firstly, from friends and relatives; secondly, from dealers. With regard to the former category, M. De S. has had peculiar advantages by reason of the eminent scientific position he holds. Let us particularly admire the French essays he owes to M. Barre's generosity. They are unique, extra choice, and would add honor to any collection. According, however, to qualified judges, the French stamps are incompletely represented, for we are certain that it might have been supplied from the second source mentioned, viz: from dealers, with many an individual now absent. Originally, when M. de S. used to busy himself in assembling materials for his collection, many dealers thought themselves highly honoured by offering him every curiosity they could obtain. But when their researches began to be less fruitful; when the sacred fire was extinguished, and the illustrious senator's numerous occupations obliged him to give rarer attention to his collection and entrust its care to others, from that day it remained stationary. Offers of rarities continued to flow in, but * * * It may be declared, then, more than two years behind-hand; for, with the exception of common specimens and fancy reprints, none of those stamps which persevering and fortunate researches have placed in the hands of dealers, and consequently in all choice collections, are to be met with. We own, therefore, with regret, that this collection is not only inferior to that of Mr. Ph., [our readers will readily recognize the allusion], but, we will

venture to affirm, to all the chief French collections. Remove the essays of M. Barre, and nothing remarkable will be found save rows or sheets of the same stamp, precisely alike in colour and perforation. In a word, nothing striking can be mentioned. The absence of many good rare stamps, frequently met with in the principal albums; the absence of numerous interesting varieties in a collection, which purports to give a complete historical resume of postage stamps; an incorrect classification; and a defective arrangement, preventing its convenient examination;—such are the blots of this famous collection. We are grieved for it, and on this Champ de Mars, witnessing so many of our industrial victories, it is painful to think our country would have suffered an easy defeat, had some foreign collector pleased to enter the lists.

After this mischance, allow us a retrospective and regretful review.

Since Class 89 served as a pretext for exhibiting M. de S.'s collection, is it not a pity that the principal collectors did not follow this example. The distinguishing characteristic of a collection is not the mere presence of unique or fabulously priced specimens. Few of us but have not had the luck to set hands on one of such curiosities. What in our view signalises a collection, is its classification because that is the veritable work of its author. A judicious and methodical classification; an arrangement conducive to proper examination; the indication of innumerable known varieties, either by unused or well-preserved copies; an album commodiously adapted for the study and preservation of stamps;—such is the true field of battle where the victory is not dependant on the multitude or the gay clothing of the battalions, but on the proof of the patient and unintermitting labour of their commander. But it must be owned that the theatre for this conflict was badly chosen in the Champ de Mars. Our timbrophilic riches lose by exposure to common and unappreciating eyes. Many amateurs were deterred on that account. Their battlefield would be the rooms of a learned society and the dispersion of the philatelic society may fitly be regretted here. The riches stored in foreign albums; valuable information; interesting details; dates vainly sought for;—all these might have come to light by the inspection of such albums in a company of amateurs. What means for completing labours now necessarily incomplete! On the contrary, what materials for study will remain in oblivion. Moreover, fresh ideas start from mutual conference, and it is natural to suppose that the method which distinguishes French collections would have been profitably ameliorated by the

examination and discussion of those in use among foreign collectors. The want of a central reunion of amateurs is more than ever to be regretted. May the Champ de Mars, the witness of our forefathers' confederation, and of this new working alliance of different peoples, inspire timbrophilic visitors with the desire of establishing an universal society, and suggest the means of constituting the same. This is our most ardent desire.

[We may conclude this account of the stamps exhibited at Paris, by remarking that numerous sheets of forgeries are disgracefully exposed for sale in the bazaar opposite the Swiss café; and that among the serial publications stand forth conspicuously *The Stamp Collectors' Magazine* and *THE PHILATELIST*.]

POSTAL MISCELLANY.

NUMBER OF STAMPS USED IN THE UNITED STATES. Mr. J. M. Chute has shown us a report from which we glean the following facts. During the seven years of the contract given by the United States to the National Bank Note Company of New York, they furnished the department with 2,462,148,200 stamps, representing by their facial value \$74,624,081.10. They were of the following values and quantities:

1 cent,	-	-	-	158,838,650
2 cents,	-	-	-	280,343,350
3 "	-	-	-	1,958,837,420
5 "	-	-	-	8,551,120
10 "	-	-	-	30,453,430
12 "	-	-	-	8,756,725
15 "	-	-	-	2,469,640
24 "	-	-	-	10,269,875
30 "	-	-	-	3,311,680
90 "	-	-	-	347,310

Total. 2,462,148,200

The paper used in making this immense quantity of stamps weighed about 100 tons, and the line of perforation would be 65,500 miles long! Can any country beat that?

Answers to Correspondents.

QUAKER CITY.—1. The S. C. Record of Montreal was published by the person you name. 2. The article on Stamp Forgeries will not be continued until the beginning of the next volume. 3. Nothing but what relates to Stamps is accepted in the MERCURY.

F. A. D.—Montrose, Pa.—Your subscription expires with number twelve. We will be happy to have you renew it, and to receive your friend's as promised. See Prospectus in another column.

W. R., Philadelphia, Pa.—The Ionian Islands stamps are now obsolete.

SUBSCRIBER—Send your stamps to a dealer who will apprise them for you.

Received Since Our Last.

[In this column we will give our honest and unrestrained opinion of all and any Timbrophilic publication that may come to our notice, If it deserves it, we will praise it, if it does not, we will criticise it and hope their publishers will look upon it in the same light, as we do, and will not expect "puffs" when they don't deserve it.]

The American Journal of Philately. New York; The N. Y. Philatelic Society.

This is a journal lately established in the city of New York and pretends to be a stamp Journal published by a pretended "Stamp Society" and in fact we may add it is a Journal with a great deal of pretence and very little show of reality or "very much cry and very little wool" as Beelzebub is said to have remarked when he had done shearing a pig.

The Editor of this same delectable Journal is a person given to ventilating his views of things in general and is withal, or rather thinks he is considerable of a critic in which character however we consider it impossible that he is likely to have greatness thrust upon him.

His last efforts in that line comes in the form of a reply to the doubts expressed by us as to the existence of a No. 1 of his Journal and which doubt we take this opportunity of informing our readers amounts to a fact and we challenge the Editor aforesaid and his invisible and immaterial familiar of LLLL. D. Morley, "Prof." Bungler of the Bunting Bugle, Baron Munchausen, "Dr." Grafton, and Dunwiddle of Dumfries to produce any evidence that the number in question had any existence until June last when the "reprint" made its appearance and until that time not a single copy of the "original" was to be ever seen either in New York or anywhere else.

His corrections are amusing. Canada stamps were first issued in 1856, so he says. How our Canadian friends will smile at that "correction". We beg to say that we are prepared to prove by

the report of the P. M. General of Canada for the year 1851 (*in which the receipts from sales of stamps forms part of the statistics*) that our publisher correctly stated the date of issue of the first Canada stamps to be 1851, and we defy him to produce any evidence to the contrary other than the weak vapid authority of the erudite compiler of the so-called "Chronological and heterogeneous system" which forms such an important feature in his Journal but which system is entirely copied from our publishers price catalogue *without a single exception*, and as the worthy compiler thereof vauntingly places his name above the valuable result of his labors and as he returns thanks to Lallier, Gray, Brown, as well as to the imaginary personage Bunker of Bungtown we do modestly present our humble claims on his gratitude seeing that his valuable compilation is simply a transposed reprint of our catalogue; *not a single original line having as yet appeared in it.*

Of course such an enlightened and gifted gentleman as the compiler is known to be would not descend to plagiarism,—of course not but we leave such of our readers as have been fortunate to obtain a glimpse of the "Chronological system" to form their own conclusions.

Regarding the sneer at our grammar we will only remark that we have a tolerable respect both for Grammatic rules and Webster's Dictionary which latter is a work which we advise our worthy cotemporary to add to the "Philatelic" library at the earliest possible date and further to study it devoutly and in the course of a few month he may probably ascertain that the words *colonne*, *the*, *catalogue*, *persume* &c. are not to be found in it.

The rest of his criticism we comprehend not, for like the peace of God, it passeth our understanding. "But, more anon" if need be.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

We have letters sent to the following addresses and returned to us as "not called for." The parties to whom they are addressed will please claim them within ninety days, or they will be destroyed.

O. Zabel, 255 N. 15th. St. Philadelphia, Pa

H. Lawson, West Chester, N. Y.

C. B. Cook, Castile, N. Y.

E. Hitchcock, Springfield, Mass.

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CORRESPONDENCE.—This will no doubt be an interesting portion as the number of correspondents is very large and *extends all over the world.*

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Any information the editor can give, he will gladly do so in this column.

EXTRACTS.—This will be a *new and very interesting* feature. All the *best* articles in our exchanges will be reprinted here, *as fast as they appear in them*, therefore making the editorial corps of the *Mercury* as large as all the others put together. This will, it is believed, be a great improvement, and a person subscribing to the *Mercury* will thus get *all* the news he would otherwise find in a dozen magazines.

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F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,

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Issued June 1868.

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U **NITED STATES STAMPS, COMPLETE SET OF** 1851 issue \$1.10. Set of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Stamps \$2.00. Set of N. Y. P. O. stamps, one stamp and four proofs, \$2.50. All unused and warranted genuine.

60 used and unused Stamps for 75 cents.

N **EW PACKET NO. 25, CONTAINS 60 USED AND** unused stamps. This packet is one of the cheapest of the list, contains no duplicates and all the stamps are genuine.

Well mixed European Stamps.

C **ONTINENTALS IN LARGE OR SMALL LOTS.** 100 for 25 cents, 500 \$1.15. Better quality 100 for 50 cents; 500 \$2.00.

Wood cuts of newly issued Stamps.

E **NGRAVINGS OF NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS** These are electrotypes of well executed cuts and are suitable to illustrate dealer's lists, circulars, &c. 20 varieties now ready, price \$1.00 each, or \$18.00 for the set

Extraordinary Success.

M **AY 20TH, I ISSUED MY NEW PACKET LIST** called "the Vini, Vidi, Vici, series" and am most thankful for the number of them that have been ordered. No better advertisement of these popular packets can be made than to state that 923 have been sold since they were first issued, May 20th to August 30th.

The American Stamp Mercury.

E **NTERTAINING READING FOR STAMP COL-** lectors as well as others. The best Stamp Paper in America. It is always quoted as the authority. Subscription only 50 cents per year. Examine this number and if you are not a subscriber you will soon be. Back numbers supplied.

Flags and Arms of all nations.

N **ICELY EXECUTED AND SUITABLE FOR HILL'S** or any other album, two sheets, being over 75 flags and arms. 25 cents each.

175 Stamps for \$3.00

T **HE THREE DOLLAR PACKET OF USED AND** unused stamps contains 175 varieties including Holland, Western Australia, Hamburg 1868, also Germany, Wurtemberg Parma, new Canada, Turk's Island, Sardinia &c. All warranted genuine.

Wanted to Buy

S **TAMPS OF ALL KINDS, PARTICULARLY THE** first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Colonial stamps of all kinds, no matter how common or rare, and all other stamps. Also collections.

For any of the above address F. TRIFET, 20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

The American Stamp Mercury

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO STAMP COLLECTING.

VOL. I.

BOSTON, OCTOBER, 1868.

No. XII

THE AMERICAN STAMP MERCURY.

Published on the 1st of every month.

F. TRIFET, Proprietor,
20 STATE STREET, - BOSTON.

TERMS FOR VOLUME II.

Single Copies, - \$.10
One Copy to One Address, One year, - 1.00

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VOLUME I, Stitched in Paper Covers, post-paid, 60 cents.

NOTICE.

Persons receiving this with this Notice marked with a large X will know that their subscription has expired X and that the Magazine will be stopped if it is not renewed.

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.

SUEZ CANAL COMPANY.—This Company has just



issued a series of stamps, similar in appearance to the annexed engraving, the use of which is to prepay the letters of the persons engaged in the working of

the Canal. There are six values:

1 centime, black, 20 centimes blue,
5 " green, 40 " rose,

The others are no doubt 10 and 80 centimes though we are not sure.

SARAWAK.—The *Philatelist* announces a stamp for this province, the value of which is three cents, printed in brown or yellow paper perforated.

INDIA.—The new 8 anna stamp noticed in our last is obtained by placing the head of the four anna, octagonal, inside of the eight anna frame. It is printed as formerly, pink on white.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—We have to add two more values to the present issue, viz:

2 cents, light-brown,
4 " carmine.

SWITZERLAND.—The 25 centimes stamp announced some time since has made his appearance. It is of the same type as the other values, printed in green. Also an envelope of the same value and colour.

Our "Local" Stamps.

BY S. A. T.

[Continued from Page 79.]

The next Local stamp claiming our attention is that issued by I. H. Prince, of Portland, Maine. This stamp is still used, and dates back some seven years. It may perhaps sound strange to some of our readers to learn that a great number of letters are daily conveyed between Portland and Boston by a private party in the face of the high sounding but unconstitutional proclamation to be seen in the Boston P.O. regulations which states that the streets of Boston have been declared a postal route to the exclusion of all unauthorized letter carriers.

Mr. Prince's stamp continues in existence for the following reason:

By the present mail arrangements between Portland and Boston, the afternoon mail closes in Portland at about 3 P. M., consequently letters posted after that hour have to wait the following mail which is not made up until the next morning, and in consequence, letters posted after 3 P. M. are not delivered in Boston until noon of the fol-

owing day. To remedy this inconvenience, Mr. Prince has a messenger, who travelling by the steamer which leaves Portland at 6 P. M., takes charge of all letters which are handed to him for transmission to Boston, but which letters must in the first place have a U. S. 3 cts. stamp affixed in addition to which Mr. Prince makes a charge of two cents for his trouble in conveying them to Boston, where at an early hour (usually before 6 A. M. of the following morning they are safely deposited in the Boston P. O., and are ready for delivery before 9 A. M., thus making a saving of from 3 to 4 hours time in transit at an extra cost of two cents.

Mr. Prince's stamps being an existing Local label is singularly enough not to be seen mentioned in any of the local price lists for which we are at a loss to account.

It is a small oval lithographic design having a representation of a steamer in the centre with the words at top in Roman characters LETTER EXPRESS, and at bottom the words I. H. Prince in fac simile of the proprietor's signature. It is printed in black on white paper, and was engraved by Messrs. Lowell and Brett of Boston, who are also, we may add in this connection the agents of the National Bank Note Company of New York.

[To be continued.]

BOSTON.

That pre-eminence in literary matters which Boston has attained and which has long been her peculiarly distinguishing characteristic when compared with the other cities of the Union is not likely to suffer on the head of timbrophilic literature in which as in all other literary matters, Boston and New England are unmistakably foremost. We give a brief statistical review showing the relative progress of timbrophily in the different quarters of the republic which will, no doubt, be interesting to our readers and which may be depended on as correct.

1st. There is at present in the United States three periodicals devoted to the interests of stamp collectors (exclusive of Messrs. Mason's Coin and "Stamp" Journal which with all respect for its talented Editor we cannot concisely designate as a "Stamp" Journal, seeing that the Stamp "news" is so extremely vague, indefinite, flat, stale, and unprofitable as the poet hath it, but which is a very excellent Coin Journal and we do recommend all Coin Collectors to subscribe forthwith). Of these three Stamp Journals, the two

oldest are published in Boston. Since the advent of timbrophily twelve stamp periodicals have been published in the U. S., of these, Boston produced 3, Chicago, Ill. 2, Meriden, Conn. 2, Middletown, Conn. 2, New York 1, Newport, R. I. 1, Cincinnati 1. Of Stamp Albums, four have been published in the U. S., of these Boston has published 2, one of them passing through three editions, N. Y. 2. Of Manuals three have been published in the U. S., of these Boston produced 2 and Philadelphia 1.

Of dealers' price lists in book form, ten have been published in the U. S., of these Boston produced 4, Philadelphia 2, New York 2, Cincinnati 1, Middletown, Conn. 1.

Of Catalogues in sheet form without enumerating the different editions, 33 have been published in the U. S., of these Boston produced 7, New York 7, Newport, R. I. 2, Chicago 2, Detroit 2, Albany 2, Belfast 2, and Philadelphia, Middletown, Meriden, Worcester, Charlestown, Lowell, Utica, Rochester, and East Saginaw one each.

In the British Provinces, timbrophily is dead a twelve month since. During its existence there Canada produced one stamp journal, the first in America, 2 pamphlet lists, and one sheet-form list, in New Brunswick (St. John) 3 stamp papers, 2 pamphlet-form lists, and 3 sheet-form lists have been published.

Of Express Post or Local Stamp lists 4 only have been published in the U. S., of these, New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Albany produced 1 each.

Of Revenue Stamps price lists, one only has been published, in Chicago, and no other we believe in the U. S.

The business of "Postage Stamp Dealers" was classified in an American directory for the first time in the Boston Business Directory for 1867 as will be seen by referring to page 236 of the Directory for that date. It is also on page 281 of the City Directory for 1868.

By the above table, it will be seen that more Stamp Journals, Albums, Catalogue, Manuals, and Price Lists, have been published in Boston than in any other city in the U. S., so that in point of timbrophilic literature Boston takes the lead as she has long continued to do in literary production of all classes.

THE NEW YORK POST OFFICE.

A glance at its Interior—The various Departments—Their Work, and How it is done.

No branch of government service is of more

interest and importance for the general public, than the Post Office Department. In the growth and development of the present extensive postal system, may be found a record of the intellectual and commercial progress of the nation. In their ceaseless ebb and flow, the mails, connecting scattered continents and widely separated sections with invisible currents of intelligent communication, have been well compared to a great brain, working out the problem of progressive civilization. Those who comprehend the present extent of the postal system would scarcely think it possible that less than half a century ago, the business of the New York Post Office was done in one small room of a private dwelling at the corner of Exchange Place and Williams street. The "Great Southern Mail," as it was called, was at that time carried in a wheelbarrow to the river, rowed over to the New Jersey side in an open boat, and sent in wagons to Philadelphia and Baltimore, whence it was despatched to other points south and west. To-day the same mail daily exceeds a hundred tons in bulk, and a thousand agents and clerks are now needed to perform the work accomplished by one man in 1818. This single fact is sufficient to show the increase in the labors and facilities of the postal service within the brief period of fifty years.

After numerous changes of location, the New York Post Office was finally transferred to the old church building on Nassau Street, where it will remain until the proposed new building is erected in the Park. The exterior appearance of this venerable edifice gives few indications of the vast work performed within its once consecrated walls, and only the beehive appearance it receives from the thousands constantly passing in and out of its many doors, shows its importance to the city, the country, and the world. Inside, however, the curious visitor sees the workings of the great system of postal communication; and if he will walk through the various departments of the office, and watch the clerks in the rapid and almost mechanical performance of their duties, he will for the first time appreciate the vastness of the work accomplished in its dark and dirty galleries. A glance at the nature and extent of this work, and the manner in which it is performed, shows many facts and figures of more than ordinary interest.

The post office is divided into seven departments, as follows: "Distribution," "Box," "Carrier," "Foreign," "Registered letter," "Money Order," and "Newspaper and Mailing."

DISTRIBUTION DEPARTMENT.

All letters carried into the post office by mail or

through the drops, exclusive of those mailed here for city delivery, are first received by this department. It is one of the most important divisions of the office, as the probability of a letter reaching the destination indicated in its address, is dependent on the accuracy with which the clerks perform their labors. Letters arriving by mail are usually put up in packages, and if New York is not their destination, these packages need not be broken. Those dropped here, however, are promiscuous, and must be classified according to the routes by which they are to be sent, and bagged under the personal supervision of Mr. O. H. Collins, the superintendent, and delivered to the mailing department for forwarding. This work is performed with great rapidity, as the mails are kept open as long as possible for the accommodation of business men. Over two hundred and fifty thousand letters pass through this department daily. Seventy-eight clerks are employed by day, and the same number by night, which is more than twice as many as were needed ten years ago. In the arrangement and distribution of letters the clerks perform their work with the rapidity and regularity of machines. Each city and town on the main postal routes has its box, into which its letters and those of the towns it supplies, are placed. They are then made up in packages, bagged and forwarded in less time than it would require to describe the details of the work. So perfect is the system, that even trifling errors are exceptional in this department. Were it otherwise, the complications of mistakes, losses and delays that must follow, would destroy the efficiency of the mail service. An instance of this occurred only a few days ago, in which, through the stupidity of some official in the Boston post office, a large portion of the New York mail from that city was misdirected and forwarded to Washington. More than two days' time was lost by this blunder, but as the mail was packed in a single large box, of the hattern lately adopted by the Department, no other evils resulted.

In the work of distribution, all letters not stamped according to law are thrown aside and held for postage. The number of letters thus detained is surprisingly large—averaging nearly two hundred a day. A large portion of these evince carelessness, rather than ignorance, on the part of those who mailed them.

Many have revenue instead of postage stamps attached; others have two-cent stamps instead of three-cent, and the rest have no stamps at all. Many letters are also detained because the addresses are wrong, or the places are unknown to the Department.

A number of amusing superscriptions might be taken from the register of detained letters, that would show the carelessness or stupidity of many whose clear and business-like handwriting shows that they should know better if they did not. One was mailed some time ago, addressed to "Henry Harris, U. S. S. C.," and another to the "United-States American Consul, Porto Rico, N. J." Letters addressed simply to Westchester, or some other large county are very common. Others, addressed to a particular neighborhood or building, such as "Main Street," or "Mansson House," without specifying in what city and state they may be found, are by no means uncommon. Many others properly stamped, are posted with no address at all, or simply to a person whose residence is a conundrum, the department clerks have no time to guess.

Foreign letters are sometimes very amusing in the manner in which they are addressed, although they are rarely detained. The signatures of letters are often copied entire, beginning with "Yours respectfully," and ending with the address of the person who has previously written from this country. In one instance the business card of a restaurant keeper was copied entire, ending with the words "Meals at all hours." Americans, however are the only people who do not appear to care whether their letters are delivered or not, and two-thirds of the errors with which the post office Department is charged, are attributable to the vague, imperfect and careless manner in which letters are addressed.

BOX DEPARTMENT.

Nearly half of the letters addressed to the business men of this city are delivered through the box department. This system of delivery merits little praise, although the department is as well managed as the faults, essentially a part of the system, permit; but the public is rapidly losing confidence in both, and we trust the boxes will be abandoned before the close of the present year. The Cedar street of the building is mainly devoted to the boxes of this department. Of these there are some six thousand, five hundred, although about two thousand have been given up by the persons formerly holding them. Sixty clerks are employed in the work of sorting and boxing the letters, sixty thousand of which are daily delivered through this department. As accuracy in this work depends solely on the sorters' memory, many errors are unavoidable. No one man or force of men has yet been found that could comprehend the box system, or remember the name and number of the box

holders and their boxes. In former years the revenue derived from the collection of box rents accrued to the postmaster, and every effort was put forth to increase the number of boxes rented, so as to swell the perquisites of that officer. As a consequence the box department attained its present size and importance, and the public became so thoroughly accustomed to this mode of delivery, that, notwithstanding the many evils essentially a part of the system, they are slow to appreciate the advantages of receiving their letters through the carriers. As we have before pointed out the defects of the box system it is unnecessary to recount the evils incident to this mode of delivery. The public is beginning to appreciate the truth of this, and we predict the speedy abandonment of the boxes, even by those who are now advocates of the system.

CARRIERS' DEPARTMENT.

Until within the past six months the carrier system has held a secondary place in the economy of the General Post Office. The up-town districts have been served by them almost exclusively for several years, but among the business men, this mode of delivery has been regarded with distrust. Urged by the many complaints made against the workings of the box delivery system, the Postmaster has determined to give it the prominence and importance it deserves, and as the public are seconding his efforts, we hope soon to see it entirely supersede the box delivery.

During the past year, the carrier force throughout the city, under the direction of Mr. J. H. Hallet, has been increased from 182 to 308 men. Below Canal and Catharine streets 86 men are employed to serve the 36 routes into which this part of the city is divided. Eight deliveries and ten collections of lamp-post box letters are made daily. The work of this department is rapidly increasing. During the month of July of the present year, 1,804,216 letters were delivered by carriers, which is over half a million more than in the same month of 1867.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT.

Under the able supervision of Mr. George G. Coffin, the foreign department of the New York Post Office has kept pace with the growth and progress of the others. Previous to the spring of 1867 the United States mail was sent out but twice a week, on Wednesday and Saturday. On the 4th of April of that year the North German Lloyd's Steamship Company (Bremen line) began running their steamers every Thursday from New York, and every Tuesday from Southampton; making a tri-weekly communication between the United States, Great Britain and the Continent. On the

31st of March, 1868, the Hamburg and American Packet Company began to run their steamers regularly on Tuesdays from New York, and on Fridays from Southampton, making four mails a week from New York. In addition to the above, contracts were made with the Inman line to carry mails from New York to Liverpool, by way of Queenstown, on Saturdays during the present year and also with the new French steamers, to carry mails direct to France an alternate Saturdays. No mails leave for foreign ports on Monday or Friday as yet, and as six European mails are none too many for the present extensive business of this department, we trust that contracts may soon be made for the remaining too days. During the quarter ending June 30, 1868, 2,303,650 letters were exchange between the United States and Europe through the New York Post office.

REGISTERED LETTER DEPARTMENT.

The institution of the money-order system, while it has not checked the constant increase of the number of registered letters sent through the mail, has very much retarded the growth of this department. Much money in small amounts was formerly sent in registered letters, but money orders are now issued for a large proportion of the sums under fifty dollars that are forwarded by mail. During the last quarter 41,224 letters were received for delivery and forwarding, and 10,850 were registered in New York by this department. In addition to this 23,000 packages of stamped envelopes, and 14,000 packages of stamps were sent, during the same quarter, to various parts of the country, by order of the Third Assistant Postmaster General. These figures, although they do not show a large increase within the past four or five years, are still sufficiently large to indicate its great importance. The registered letter department is presided over by Mr. Walter Kelly, and is well and carefully managed. All the fees charged for the registering of letters are now paid in stamps.

MONEY-ORDER DEPARTMENT.

Since the establishment of the money-order system in 1864, the work of this department has increased with unparalleled rapidity. During the first quarter of its existence only 1,116 orders were issued for the amount of \$20,814.29. During the second quarter of the present year their number was increased to 4,285, and the amount to \$110,703.55. The difference between the payments for the same two quarters is equally marked. During the former, the number of orders presented was 5,416, and the amount paid \$41,438.69. During the latter their number reached 36,644, and the

amount \$619,802.09. As the system and its workings are each day better understood by the public, a still greater proportionate increase may be expected during the next four or five years. The business of this department is personally supervised by Mr. Norton, assistant postmaster; and every facility is afforded the public of enjoying all the benefits of this convenient system, which want of space prevent our describing at length.

NEWSPAPER AND MAILING DEPARTMENTS.

The work of these combined departments is important and extensive. They employ 80 clerks, 25 route agents and 104 postal car clerks. In the newspaper department about 350 bags of printed matter are daily received from the various publishing houses of the city for distribution. Besides this there are received, for city delivery, not less than 50,000 daily, weekly and monthly publications a day. Connected with this department are 181 boxes, reserved exclusively for the press and accessible at all hours, in which are placed their exchanges. In the mailing department about one thousand six hundred bags are made up and forwarded daily—the aggregate weight of the mails handled each day exceeding one hundred tons. The postal car service, which is also under the supervision of this department, is now in successful operation from New York to Washington, New York to Boston, New York to Buffalo via Erie Railroad, and New York to Buffalo via Central Railroad, on each of which routes two daily lines of postal Cars are now running with the express trains. These departments are under the charge of Mr. S. H. Knapp, superintendent of mails.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*

Answers to Correspondents.

L. W., London, Ont.—1. In packet number 4 the stamps are advertised as fac-similes, which means copies or in other words forgeries. 2. Your subscription ends with this number. 3. There are about 4,000 stamps in all, counting all varieties.

N. A. G., New York.—The reason you did not get the Mexicans is that they are not to be had.

N. W. P., Providence, R. I.—1. The two real of Ecuador is an imposition and should not be in Brown's catalogue. 2. There are two varieties of the check stamp you mention one yellow and one rose. We have also seen a five cent yellow.

This correspondent says "I shall subscribe for the *Mercury* again; it is well worth a dollar a year and more."

PROSPECTUS OF THE 2D VOL.

OF

The American Stamp Mercury.

ENLARGED TO TWELVE PAGES.

With the next number of the *Mercury*, the second volume begins and the publisher feels it his duty to thank the collectors of America, as well as abroad, for the liberal support they have given it during the first year of its existence. No pains will be spared to keep it above all others in rank, and nothing that work or money can do will be left undone, in order to keep to it the title it has attained of

THE BEST STAMP PAPER IN AMERICA.

The publisher hopes to see all the old names on his new list, and is sure that his friends will not desert him, but send as long lists of clubs as they can get. Remember that the size of the paper is in your hands, and the more subscribers, the larger the magazine. The following will be the

CONTENTS :

NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS.—A full list of all stamps issued during the month will be given, illustrated with, on an average, *three engravings a month*.

ORIGINAL ARTICLES.—by some of the best writers at home and abroad.

CORRESPONDENCE.—This will no doubt be an interesting portion as the number of correspondents is very large and *extends all over the world*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Any information the editor can give, he will gladly do so in this column.

EXTRACTS.—This will be a *new and very interesting* feature. All the best articles in our exchanges will be reprinted here, *as fast as they appear in them*, therefore making the editorial corps of the *Mercury* as large as all the others put together. This will, it is believed, be a great improvement, and a person subscribing to the *Mercury* will thus get all the news he would otherwise find in a dozen magazines.

ADVERTISEMENTS—will be inserted in the other four pages only, thereby not interfering with the reading matter in the least.

The advertisers will bear in mind that the *Mercury* has the *largest circulation of any stamp publication in America*, and look on the rates of advertisements accordingly.

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For one page, 18.00
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ALL PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.

An unused foreign stamp is given away with each number.

EXTRAORDINARY INDUCEMENT.

In order to enlarge the circulation of the *Mercury*, the Publisher offers as a prize to the person that sends the largest number of subscriptions between this and January 1st, a collection of 500 stamps mounted in one of Hills' new Album, and to the person sending the second largest number, a collection of 300 in one of the same kind of albums. Send the subscriptions as fast as you get them and you will be credited with them and on December 31st, the persons that have sent the two largest number of subscriptions will be awarded the prize.

Subscribers whose subscription does not finish with the volume will receive the *Mercury* WITHOUT THE STAMP. Address all communications

F. TRIFET, Publisher,
American Stamp Mercury,
20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

CHEAP SETS.

USED STAMPS.

Those marked by an asterisk (*) are complete sets.

Austria, 1850-67,	20 Varieties	\$0.60
Austrian Italy	6 "	.20
Baden	10 "	.30
Bavaria, '51-62,	8 "	.20
Bavaria, '67,	4 "	.15
Belgium	6 "	.20
Bermuda,	4 "	.45
Brazil	5 "	.30
British Guiana,	4 "	.20
Brunswick	5 "	.25
Canada 1860-68.	10 "	.20
Denmark	5 "	.15
France 1849-67,	12 "	.25
Germany, North	10 "	.30
Germany South	10 "	.30
Great Britain	12 "	.30
*Greece	7 Varieties	.30
Hamburg,	4 "	.20
Hanover	6 "	.25
Holland,	5 "	.18
*Hong Kong	10 "	.45
India	8 "	.30
Italy	10 "	.35
*Jamaica	6 "	.35
New South Wales	4 "	.20
*New Zealand	7 "	.70
Norway	4 "	.20
Oldenburg,	4 "	.18
Prussia	25 "	.75
Queensland	4 "	.25
Roman States,	6 "	.30
Salvador	3 "	.60
Saxony	12 "	.40
Schleswing Holstein	5 "	.25
Spain 1850-67	10 "	.50
Straits Settlement	6 "	1.00
Sweden	5 "	.15
Switzerland	12 "	.35
Victoria	6 "	.20
Wurtemberg	8 "	.25

UNUSED STAMPS.

These sets are all complete.

Bavaria 1867	6 varieties	1.00
Bergedorf,	5 "	.60
Canada 1868	7 "	.85
Dresden 1868	12 "	1.30
Egypt 1866	7 "	2.00
Hamburg adhesives	10 "	1.60
" Envelopes	7 "	1.10
" Boten	116 "	.75
India envelopes	2 "	.40
Ionian Islands	3 "	.50
Mecklenburg Schwerin	8 "	1.30
Neapolitan Provinces	8 "	1.25
Nicaragua	2 "	.40
Romagna	9 "	1.75
St. Lucia	4 "	1.30
Servia, head	5 "	.65
Sicily	7 "	1.75
Spain (all issues)	8 "	.50
Switzerland envelopes	3 "	.30
United States 1851	8 "	1.10

All the above are warranted genuine.

F. TRIFET, 20 State St., Room 12,
Boston, Mass.

JUST ISSUED,

A new edition of

The Boston Stamp Album.

Enlarged, revised, and improved, containing places for over 3000 stamps including the new issued such as Paraguay, Orange Free State, Turk's Island, Straits Settlement &c., the whole forming the latest and most complete and best Stamp Album yet issued, compiled by a well known Timbrophilist assisted by F. Trifet and other dealers and collectors. Printed in carmine ink and bound in English-Turkey Cloth. Price, post paid \$3.00

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Also files of any Foreign publications excepting the S. C. Magazine, THE PHILATELIST, and LE TIMBROPHILE.

Persons having the above or any part of them, will please address, giving description, condition, and price.

Issued October 1868.

A New and Illustrated
DESCRIPTIVE PRICE-LIST
AND
CATALOGUE
OF

American and Foreign
Postage Stamps,

For Sale by F. TRIFET.

This is a new and complete Price Catalogue of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1868; compiled on an entirely new plan, and containing illustrations of many new and rare stamps.

All former prices cancelled from date. SEND FOR IT.
Sent, post paid, to any address on receipt of 15 cents, or 5 three cent stamps. A few copies will be interleaved with blank sheets to make notes, &c. Price, 25 cents.

Address

F. TRIFET, 20 State St.,
Boston, Mass.**WANTED!** The following stamps in any quantity.

CANADA; ½d., 6d. sterling, 10d., 12d. and envelopes.

NEW BRUNSWICK; 3d, 6d, 12d, 2 and 17 cents.

NEWFOUNDLAND; 4d, 6½d, 1s SCARLET, and 12, 13, and 24 cents.

NOVA SCOTIA; 1, 3, 6, 12 pence, and 8½ cents.

Also all kinds of Hong Kong, India, Victoria, Mexico, Salvador, New Zealand, Tasmania, and other colonial and South American stamps.

Persons having such will please send them on for inspection with the lowest prices pr. piece, dozen or hundred.

F. TRIFET

20 State St. Boston, Mass.

UNITED STATES.

The Set of Eight, including the 90 cent, 1851 unused, \$1.10,

Wells, Fargo & Co., Set of 11 unused, 2.00,

N. Y. P. O., Set of Five, 2.50.

The above are very cheap, and I have but a few sets on hand.

F. TRIFET, 20 State Street,
Boston, Mass.

F. Trifet's Oct. Announcements.

A New Illustrated Price Catalogue.

F. TRIFET'S NEW CATALOGUE PUBLISHED. June 1st, gives the description and value of every stamp issued from 1840 to June '48. It is illustrated with engravings of many new and rare stamps, and is the only complete catalogue published in America.

Price 15 cents. Interleaved with blank pages for making notes, &c., 25 cents.

40 Varieties for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED stamps contains forty varieties, including Austria, Baden, Bavaria, Sweden, Canada, Switzerland, &c. All warranted genuine.

Cheap Italian Stamps.

ROMAGNA, SET OF NINE, \$1.75; SICILY, SET of seven, \$1.75; Naples set of eight, \$1.25. All unused and warranted genuine.

New Canada Stamps in Packets.

IN THE ONE DOLLAR PACKET OF UNUSED STAMPS there is a $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, 2 and 3 cent stamp of the new issue of Canada, besides 36 other stamps. All warranted genuine.

18 Colonial Stamps for 25 Cents.

F. TRIFET'S TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF used colonial stamps contains 18 varieties, including Barbadoes, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, &c.—All warranted genuine.

Cheap Sets of Unused Stamps.

EGYPT, 1866, set of seven, \$2.00. Egypt, 1867, set of six, \$1.60. Canada, 1851, set of six, \$6.00. Canada, 1868, set of seven, 85 cents. Ionian Islands, set of three, 50 cents. All unused and warranted genuine.

20 Used and Unused Stamps for 25 cents.

THE TWENTY-FIVE CENT PACKET OF USED AND Unused stamps contains 20 varieties, including Greece, Brazil, Barbadoes, &c. All warranted genuine.

Hamburg Boten Stamps.

SETS OF 116, INCLUDING HAMER'S ADHESIVES & Envelopes, 2 sets of Hamonia, 4 of Scheerenbeck, 2 of Lafrentz, Krantz, &c., being the complete set for 75 cents. Warranted genuine.

The Cheapest Album advertised.

MULREADY ALBUM NO. 1. BROUGHT UP TO the present time, spaces being provided for all new issues, small oblong, cloth, post free, 90 cents.

This is the best Album, for the money.

Fac Similes of Confederate Stamps.

ON RECEIPT OF 25 CTS., I WILL SEND PACKET number four, which contains 40 varieties of Confederate *Fac Similes*. They are well executed and cheap. A discount will be made on a dozen packets.

The Cheapest Stamp Album.

NONPAREIL POSTAGE STAMP ALBUM, RULED to contain over 1100 stamps, with the description of current issue in English, French and German. Embossed cloth covers. Post free 55 cents!

The latest Descriptive Catalogue.

THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S HAND-BOOK.—IT gives a description of all stamps issued from 1840 to 1867 compiled by the late C. M. Celtz. Postpaid, 25 cents.

The only Album containing Places for Revenues.

HILL'S BOSTON STAMP ALBUM, CONTAINS places for 3000 stamps, is divided into countries, each country having sufficient spaces for all past present and future issues. Printed in carmine ink, 4to. cloth gilt sides, post free, \$3.00.

The best Album published.

LALLIER'S ALBUM, TRANSLATED INTO English from the seventh French edition. Contains a full description of all American and foreign stamps, with compartments arranged for the reception of each. This is the most complete Album published. Imperial oblong, 8 vo., cloth, post free \$5.50; half turkey morocco, better paper, \$7.00.

15 unused stamps for 25 cents.

YOU CAN GET OF ME FIFTEEN UNUSED STAMPS for 25 cents., including Bavaria, Baden, Italy, France &c. All warranted genuine.

The best thing to mount stamps with.

ADHESIVE PAPER. BY TAKING A SMALL PIECE of this paper, and folding it in halves, you can firmly and neatly mount your stamps in your album by merely moistening it, and after fixing one half to the stamp, stick the other half unto the book. Price, per package of ten sheets, 15 cents and stamp.

Veni, Vidi, Vici, Series of Packets.

NEW PACKET LIST ISSUED MAY 20TH. SEND one stamp for it. You will find on it many packets that cannot be equaled and none that can be beaten by any dealer in this Country. 1101 have been sold since May 20th.

Confederate Stamps, Cheap.

NOW IS THE TIME TO FILL YOUR SETS. 1 CENT orange, \$2.50. 2 cents green, \$2.00. 5 cents green or blue, 30 cents. 10 cents blue. 60 cts. 10 cent rose \$2.00. Ten cents blue \$2.00. All the above are the old issue very rare and cheap, also warranted genuine.

If you try other dealers and are not satisfied, try me. ONLY ONE TRIAL IS SOLICITED AND IF NOT satisfactory, I am willing to return the money. This is an advantage that other dealers don't give you.

Cheaper than Ever.

UNITED STATES STAMPS, COMPLETE SET OF 1851 issue \$1.10. Set of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express Stamps \$2.00. Set of N. Y. P. O. stamps, one stamp and four proofs, \$2.50. All unused and warranted genuine.

60 used and unused Stamps for 75 cents.

NEW PACKET NO. 25, CONTAINS 60 USED AND unused stamps. This packet is one of the cheapest of the list, contains no duplicates and all the stamps are genuine.

Well mixed European Stamps.

CONTINENTALS IN LARGE OR SMALL LOTS. 100 for 25 cents, 500 \$1.15. Better quality 100 for 50 cents; 500 \$2.00.

Wood cuts of newly issued Stamps.

ENGRAVINGS OF NEWLY ISSUED STAMPS These are electrotypes of well executed cuts and are suitable to illustrate dealer's lists, circulars, &c. 20 varieties now ready, price \$1.00 each, or \$18.00 for the set.

Extraordinary Success.

MAY 20TH. I ISSUED MY NEW PACKET LIST called "the Veni, Vidi, Vici, series" and am most thankful for the number of them that have been ordered. No better advertisement of these popular packets can be made than to state that 923 have been sold since they were first issued, May 20th to August 30th.

The American Stamp Mercury.

ENTERTAINING READING FOR STAMP COL- lectors as well as others. The best Stamp Paper in America. It is always quoted as the authority. Subscription only 50 cents per year. Examine this number and if you are not a subscriber you will soon be. Back numbers supplied.

Flags and Arms of all nations.

NICELY EXECUTED AND SUITABLE FOR HILL'S or any other album, two sheets, being over 75 flags and arms. 25 cents each.

175 Stamps for \$3.00

THE THREE DOLLAR PACKET OF USED AND unused stamps contains 175 varieties including Holland, Western Australia, Hamburg 1868, also Germany, Wurtemberg Parma, new Canada, Turk's Island, Sardinia &c. All warranted genuine.

Wanted to Buy

STAMPS OF ALL KINDS, PARTICULARLY THE first issue of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Colonial stamps of all kinds, no matter how common or rare, and all other stamps. Also collections.

For any of the above address F. TRIFET, 20 State Street, Boston, Mass.

